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# ARAB TIMES

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NO. 7745 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1989/JAMADIUL AWWAL 21, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS

## Qaboos seeks progressive role to 'meet the needs of our own people'

# Oman urges GCC to match world change

Opinions differ on how to deal with Iran after the Gulf war.

MUSCAT, Dec 18, (Agencies): Gulf Arab leaders began a four-day summit in Muscat, Oman, today amid signs of disagreement on how to deal with Iran after the Gulf war, and debate on an Arab common market to exploit higher oil prices.

Opening the summit, Sultan Qaboos of Oman urged the GCC to adopt new policies that would catch up with new changes in the world stating that "a changing world entails from us to sort new policies that take into consideration and implementation these international changes."

In light of this, he added, "it is necessary to develop and activate co-ordination

mechanisms, and modernize the council's apparatus in a manner that would realize more flexibility and vividness on our collective work."

"We are well aware that we must have a progressive role to better meet the needs of our own people," Qaboos, who is hosting the summit, said.

"Our march must avoid mistakes made in regional groupings elsewhere," he said in the speech delivered in Arabic, and broadcast live on state-run Omani Television.

Leaders attending the Muscat summit were HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan of United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar and Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The diplomats said items on the unannounced agenda were also expected to include the Palestinian uprising and the continuing crisis in Lebanon.

They said GCC leaders would play down joint military co-operation. The group's dominant economic power, Saudi Arabia, encouraged efforts to set up a joint defence force during the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq war.

Though joint military manoeuvres have taken place, GCC member-states have shown reluctance to sacrifice national sovereignty and place troops under GCC control.

The diplomats said differences on how to deal with post-war Iran also hindered military integration. While states such as Oman, which traditionally maintains close historic and trade ties with Iran, remained neutral during the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait supported Iraq.

Differences of opinion on how to deal with post-war Iraq under its current pragmatist President Hujatolislam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will also come up for discussion at the summit.

United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman believe that improving trade relations with cash-strapped Iran will bolster Rafsanjani's position and help Iranian moderates.

Rafsanjani's policies of opening up to the West and loosening the economy suffered a blow last week when Tehran voters elected his arch, anti-American radical rival, former interior minister Hujatolislam Ali Akbar Mohtashami, to Parliament.

The suspension of Iran's war with Iraq, added to the gradual rise in world oil prices, has ushered in new hopes of an economic revival in the region. All the GCC states except Oman belong to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapex), and most are also members of Opec.

One GCC Arab cabinet minister said efforts to set up an Arab common market were progressing slowly because of the need to protect subsidised industries in certain GCC states.

Other moves to attract back some \$150 billion invested primarily in countries such as the

(Continued on Page 9)



HH the Amir of Kuwait is welcomed by Sultan Qaboos of Oman upon his arrival at Muscat. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Bush stiff on Iran, hot over Panama

WASHINGTON, Dec 18, (Agencies): In separate interviews today, President Bush lauded Egypt's role in the peace process as "catalytic" and complained that recent signs of Iranian moderation have not been backed up by concrete actions.

The American leader told "US News and World Report" magazine concerning Egyptian efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. "Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's role is catalytic and his 10 points were helpful."

Bush also suggested that initial Israeli concerns that it would be forced in proposed three-way peace talks to negotiate with the PLO or make over-broad concessions were unjustified.

The Israeli fears — dubbed "foot-dragging" by cynics — now appeared "allayed," Bush told the newsmagazine.

On another issue, he said the latest disintegration of Lebanon was a problem that "really kills me. It's the agony I have in my heart about Lebanon."

He added, "I don't know why I take it so personally. Some of it, I think, is the fact that Americans are still held there against their will, and it's Christmas time."

Over the weekend Bush, following his meeting in St Martin's with French President Francois Mitterrand, said the two leaders agreed that "Mr (Elia) Hiriawi is the head of government there and recognized as such and that, in our view, things would be much benefited if Mr (Gn. Michel) Aoun left."

Bush again "saluted" the Arab League's tripartite Lebanon accord and went on to say, "it plagues me, particularly at this joyous time of year, that Lebanon is having this terrible, terrible grief."

Bush, speaking this morning in the White House Oval Office to reporters from the Associated Press and three other major wire services, also alluded to his "personal frustration" on the hostage situation, saying "it's on my mind an awful lot."

He said he had written personal notes to the hostages' (Continued on Page 2)



Surfing Santa

Santa Claus celebrates a visit to Australia by trying out skimboarding, a form of surfing at a Sydney beach, where the start of summer has been marked by temperatures around 30°C.

The Swiss Weather Bureau warned Alpine resorts Monday that 80-year record high temperatures reduced to almost zero the chances of a white Christmas.

Snow at higher altitudes early in December was mainly washed away by later rain and what remained has now been turned into mush by a warm Föhn wind blowing from the south.

In some places in Switzerland, temperatures were as high as 22.5°C (72.5°F) at the weekend and again on Monday — the warmest for the time of year since 1902.

New Year's eve partygoers around the world will have to wait an extra second before ringing in the 1990s.

Britain's Royal Greenwich Observatory said on Monday that time services across the globe would put back their clocks by one second just before midnight GMT on Dec 31 to prevent man-measured time getting out of step with the earth's rotation.

"Tight watch in storm-torn Europe" — Page 2

## \$30m to kill Bush

### Cartel contract out

NEW YORK, Dec 18, (AP): A published report says Colombian drug lords have taken out a \$30-million contract on the life of President George Bush.

At least one member of Congress believes the threat is real.

Intelligence reports found that the cartels have tried to recruit Midwest terrorists to kill Bush, and tried to hire Colombian guerrillas to hit targets in the United States, according to an unidentified State Department official quoted by Newsweek magazine in its Dec 25 issue.

Some of the reports "have prompted serious investigations," the official said, but none has been checked out.

"I know nothing about that," said deputy White House Press Secretary Roman Popadink.

Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, however, believed the Colombians would try to kill Bush.

"They are desperate people," the senator said of the drug traffickers.

"They have used these tactics against their own people and they would resort to this kind of effort."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Letter bomb found, similar to one which killed US judge

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama, Dec 18, (UPI): The letter bomb that killed US circuit judge Robert Vance was similar to one found today in a federal courthouse in Atlanta, authorities said.

Allen Whitaker, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Birmingham, also said authorities had been able to determine a return address for the package that exploded in the kitchen of Vance's home on Saturday, killing the judge and seriously injuring his wife. He would neither confirm nor

deny reports that the return address was that of a federal judge in Atlanta.

"We believe we know the return address of the device that exploded at the Vance residence," Whitaker said. "We have what we believe is a postmark."

Pressed by reporters for the name on the package, Whitaker said, "We will say there is a name and not discuss it further."

The FBI held a news conference in Birmingham

today just after police and military squads in body armour found the new letter bomb in the 11th US circuit court of appeals in Atlanta. Whitaker said bomb experts in Alabama on the Vance case were being sent to Atlanta to investigate.

"While screening mail in the federal courthouse a second package containing a similar explosive device was found," Whitaker said. "That matter is being approached with a great deal of caution."

## Sikhs refuse oath in House

By Thomas Abraham  
 Arab Times staff

NEW DELHI, Dec 18: Prime Minister V.P. Singh took his oath as a member of the new Parliament today and pledged to try to find a political solution to the bloody battle for Sikh independence. But Sikh militants who won Parliament seats refused to take oaths of allegiance. Janata Dal leader Chandrashekar also stayed away.

Meanwhile, the Congress Party that gave India three generations of leaders was relegated to the role of opposition for only the second time in history.

Sikh militants from the state of Punjab, who won seats for the first time in last month's election, did not take oaths of office with other parliamentarians.

It was not immediately known why the radicals stayed away from the swearing-in ceremony, but militant sources in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar said they want the new government to rescind anti-terrorism laws and withdraw paramilitary forces from Punjab before swearing allegiance to the Indian constitution.

Prior to the opening of the session, Singh named a leading physicist, Prof M.G.K. Menon, as Minister of Science and Technology, the first scientist to ever hold the post and the 21st member of the National Front cabinet.

After he was sworn in, Singh told reporters he would continue the dialogue initiated yesterday to find a political solution to the struggle that has claimed more than 7,000 lives in Punjab in the past eight years.

Militants won six of the 13 seats in Punjab, and three independents backed by the militants also were elected. One of the independents, Kirpal Singh, took the oath, but the remaining eight were missing from the House.

The oath does not have to be administered on Parliament's first day, but there is no clear precedent on how long the Sikhs could refrain from taking it. They will not be permitted to speak or vote in Parliament unless they take the oath.

In the ceremony, Singh pledged to uphold the constitution, then walked across the floor to shake hands with ex-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv was sworn in after Singh and members of his cabinet took their oaths.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Romanians rise up 'Dozens die'

BELGRADE, Dec 18, (Reuters): A Yugoslav witness of an anti-government demonstration in the Romanian town of Timisoara said today he estimated security forces had killed dozens of people.

Radislav Denica, a graduate of Timisoara University who was in the city for a week and returned to Yugoslavia today, said security forces had opened fire on the protesters on Sunday with rifles and from helicopters.

"Hundreds of people were falling on the pavement in front of my eyes," he told reporters.

Denica said he had personally seen three dead bodies, including the corpse of a little child wrapped in white linen and lying on a street in Timisoara.

He said he had seen smoke pouring from the city's police headquarters and believed the demonstrators had attacked the building.

"Cars were overturned in the streets and windows were smashed. People broke into bookstores, took out books written by Ceausescu and burned them," he said.

The riot was the most serious challenge to the hardline communist rule of President Nicolae Ceausescu since a workers' protest in the city of Brasov in November 1987.

Another Yugoslav witness of the riot in Timisoara, who declined to be identified, said security forces dispersed the protesters with automatic rifles and water cannon.

## Rebel press put on notice

### Cory to use courts

MANILA, Dec 18, (UPI): President Corazon Aquino today threatened to crack down on news media broadcasting or publishing seditious reports following the recent coup attempt that nearly toppled her government.

Aquino, at her weekly news conference, also said the top 15 leaders of the mutiny under detention have been stripped of their salaries and will face "the full force of the law."

Asked about her media policy, Aquino said radio and television networks would be closed "if they violate the terms and conditions" of their franchises.

"With regard to print media... we will base this on any article that will incite (people) to rebellion. If such an article appears in any of the newspapers, then we will go to court to file charges against the erring individual or publisher," Aquino said.

Two radio stations were shut down during the Dec 1-9 uprising for broadcasting alleged rebel propaganda, but they are now back on the air, the National Telecommunications Commission has said.

The military wanted to close the Philippine daily Inquirer for alleged inaccurate reporting during the coup attempt, but Aquino's executive secretary, Catalino Macaraig, objected, said the pro-government daily Globe newspaper.

Aquino repeated an earlier announcement that she will reor-

(Monahan manifesto — Page 5)

### NEWSWATCH

#### New currency

BELGRADE, Dec 18, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's communist government proposed a new currency and a six-month wage freeze to combat inflation which rocketed last month to an annual rate of almost 2,000 per cent.

Prime Minister Ante Markovic said the government wanted to create a new dinar, fully convertible with all Western currencies, to be worth 10,000 old dinars and to go into circulation on Jan 1.

#### Arab arrested

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18, (UPI): Pakistan authorities said they have arrested an Arab engineer on charges he was involved in planting a bomb on a Saudia Airlines jetliner last month.

— See Page 2 —

#### Friendship treaty

COLOMBO, Dec 18, (Kuna): Both the Sri Lankan and the Indian governments are now working on a draft of a friendship treaty which may be signed between the two countries, an Indian High Commission official said in Colombo.

#### Taipei fire

TAIPEI, Dec 18, (AP): Fire raged through an underground shopping complex in the Taiwanese southern city of Kaosung that authorities had planned to close earlier this year due to safety problems.

#### Film on hijack

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Dec 18, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev may soon follow former US President Ronald Reagan onto the silver screen. But, unlike Reagan's B-movie roles, Gorbachev will portray himself in an Israeli-Soviet film based on the true story of a Soviet plane hijacked to Israel by armed robbers, the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported.

The film's scriptwriter, a member of the Soviet Parliament, told Gorbachev he was looking for a double to portray him in the film.

### BABY DAY

SOME banks in the Gulf states act as if they are governments and do not even abide by the laws of the central banks.

In dealing with the public, they behave in a manner that spells the highest degree of exploitation possible. Precisely, we mean managers of some branches of these banks. These managers think that while in the bank, they are in their chalets or farms or as shepherds dealing with their sheep.

Zahed Matar

### Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate northerly westerly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 3.00 am, 3.00 pm

Low water: 10.30 am, 11.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.37 am

Sunset: 4.53 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmad: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Ahmad: 10°C 50°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmad: 16°C 61°F

Falaka: 16°C 61°F

Minimum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Ahmad: 10°C 50°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F



## INTERNATIONAL

## Terror suspect Iranians in UK net

MANCHESTER, England, Dec 18, (AP): Four Iranians, two of them students, are being held by police in Manchester under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, police and university officials said today.

"We can confirm that four males of Iranian nationality are at present detained. Inquiries are continuing," said a police spokeswoman, who by custom was not identified.

The four were detained on Friday but police refused to identify them or release any further details.

The spokesman said the detentions were not in connection with the US State Department's warning last week of a possible terrorist attack on a US target in Western Europe or West Africa.

Patrick Stephenson, registrar at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, confirmed that two of the four were engineering students who had completed their course work for doctor of philosophy degrees and were writing their dissertations. He identified them as Karen Abrinia, 32, and Mehrdad Kokabi, 33.

Another of those arrested was 40-year-old Javad Mousavi, a father of four who suffers from multiple sclerosis, said his English-born wife Dawn.

Mrs Mousavi said police came to the family's home in the Rusholme area of Manchester on Friday afternoon and arrested her husband.

"We were kept in the kitchen for two hours while the police searched the house. They took away personal papers like letters and even bank books. They turned everything upside down and took the floorboards up," she said.

"Javed is innocent. I don't know why he is detained. He is not a politically active person — although we both support the Iranian government," Mrs Mousavi said.

Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, suspects can be held for seven days without being charged.

Air travellers faced today long queues at London's Heathrow Airport as security was tightened after a warning about a possible attempt to mark the first anniversary of the Lockerbie air disaster with a fresh attack.

Particular emphasis was being placed on US airlines, where passengers were being questioned and searched as they checked-in, and all baggage was X-rayed before being put in aircraft holds, airport officials said.

Airport authorities urge passengers not to bring sealed presents through the hand baggage searches, and security staff were opening them up if X-ray examinations indicate anything suspicious.

# Muslims split over response to Satanic Verses

LONDON, Dec 18, (AP): Hesham Al Essawy wanted to visit Iran and win a reprieve for author Salman Rushdie. But a Tehran newspaper said "the hanging rope" awaited him, so he stayed in England.

Kalim Siddiqui supports the late Ayatollah Khomeini's call for Muslims to kill Rushdie and thinks the author should be hounded until "The Satanic Verses" is withdrawn from bookshelves.

Both men are noted Muslim figures in Britain, and both regard Rushdie's book as deeply offensive to their faith. But their differing approaches reflect the divisions among Muslims on how to cope with "The Satanic Verses" and Khomeini's death order.

Rushdie, a Bombay-born Muslim, has been in hiding under police guard since Feb 14. Khomeini died on June 3, but his edict endures. Muslims say "The Satanic Verses,"

published 14 months ago, insults Islam. Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute, says Khomeini's "fatwa" is unchallengeable, and that Rushdie got "nothing less than he thoroughly deserved."

But while favouring the death decree "absolutely," he says it is "not for Muslims living in this country to break British law to bring Rushdie to book."

Al Essawy, chairman of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious

Tolerance, contends that the death call contradicts the Holy Quran's teachings.

"As a Muslim, I should really suppress the human response and adopt the religious response, which is 'don't punish him, leave him to God to punish or forgive him as he wishes,'" Al Essawy said in an interview.

Al Essawy planned a lecture tour of Iran, Egypt and the Gulf states in

February to dispute the edict, but cancelled it when Iran declined to guarantee his safety and its semi-official newspaper, Keshan, warned he would be hanged.

"The death sentence is really a slur, is something that defames the religion of Islam," Al Essawy said.

"As long as the man stays in hiding, we'll stand accused of putting him there and keeping him there. We'll be regar-

ded as potential killers."

Al Essawy hoped to at least remove the \$5.2 million bounty offered by Iranian clerics.

Al Essawy and Siddiqui have never met. Al Essawy's group aims to identify and correct causes of intolerance toward Muslims. Siddiqui's disseminates information on Muslim political thought.

Siddiqui, immigrated from Pakistan in 1954, Al Essawy from Egypt in 1970.



### Keeping in check

Indian troops train their guns on a sensitive spot in Srinagar, capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, to control riots. The strategic territory of Kashmir was placed under curfew after the Indian government exchan-

ged five Kashmiri separatists for the kidnapped daughter of the home minister. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Saudia bomb suspect detained

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18, (AP): Police have arrested a suspect in the attempted bombing last month of a Saudi Arabian Airlines jet with 339 people aboard, authorities announced today.

Authorities refused to release his name and nationality, but said he was a mechanical engineer from an Arab country who is a known extremist.

"We do not want to give other details yet as the investigation is still under way," said Mohammad Habib Khan, director of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency.

The agency said the man admitted guilt after being identified by witnesses.

An FIA press release said he handed a school bag containing a crude time bomb to a Saudi passenger identified as Abu Ameer, who was told it contained stamps and a book to be collected by someone in Jeddah.

"Ameer is in custody in Saudi Arabia, but we expect him to be sent here soon for questioning", Khan said.

Police said the bomb aboard the Boeing 747 failed to explode because a detonator wire apparently jarred loose when the bag was being loaded.

They said it was timed to go off while the plane was over the Arabian Sea on a flight from Islamabad to the Saudi city of Jeddah on Nov 23.

Authorities have not explained how the device escaped detection during the normally intensive screening of baggage at Islamabad airport.

The flight was diverted to Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi after Islamabad airport security officers received a note demanding \$15 million ransom, officials said.

Delivered by a taxi driver, the message said the aircraft would blow up if the money were not delivered in \$50 notes to a location in Islamabad.

Officials said it was not clear why the suspect demanded ransom when the bomb was set to go off automatically.

The bomb was discovered after the jet landed and passengers were ordered to identify their luggage.

Experts said it consisted of only eight ounces (250 grammes) of dynamite, but could have caused damage sufficient to destroy the plane while in the air.

The FIA said the suspect got to know Ameer recently in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan.

They travelled together on a bus from Peshawar to Islamabad a few days before the departure of Saudia Flight SV 367, it said.

The agency said authorities recovered a pistol and ammunition from the suspect along with papers which apparently were intended to mislead police in the event of his arrest.

### Solzhenitsyn essay published

THE Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda broke new ground yesterday with the publication of a favourable essay on Alexander Solzhenitsyn's epic expose of the Stalinist labour camps, "Gulag Archipelago".

The essay by former dissident historian Roy Medvedev first appeared in the West in 1974 just one month after the clandestine publication of "Gulag" in Paris.



Singh smiles as he enters the Parliament House in New Delhi. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Ray for speaker

MGK Menon gets cabinet post

(Continued from Page 1)

Singh is expected to seek a vote of confidence from Parliament on Thursday, the first parliamentary test for the unlikely coalition his own centrist National Front formed with right-wing Hindu fundamentalists and an array of communists and socialists.

It was the first time the post of Minister of Science and Technology has gone to a scientist. Rajiv a computer enthusiast and former airplane pilot, had retained that portfolio for himself.

Prof Menon is not a member of Parliament, another departure from Indian political tradition, under which cabinet posts are usually given to legislators from the governing party.

Menon, till recently a member of the Planning Commission, was sworn in at a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan by President R. Venkataraman.

With the inclusion of the 60-year-old scientist, the strength of the Singh ministry went up to 21, of whom 18 are of cabinet rank.

In the Planning Commission, Menon was looking after scientific research, technology development, ecology and health.

Former health minister Rabi Ray will be the ruling National

Front's candidate for speakership of Lok Sabha. The speaker will be elected tomorrow after the swearing-in of members, which began today, will be completed.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister P Upendra said all other parties had been consulted on the choice of Ray. The convention in the Lok Sabha is to try and achieve a consensus on the speaker's candidature so that a contest is avoided.

But soon after the announcement, the Congress, the single largest party in the Lok Sabha, reacted sharply saying that it had not been consulted on the choice.

A party spokesman said Upendra had only gone up to Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi in the Lok Sabha this morning to inform him about the decision to nominate Ray.

The spokesman said the Congress would not tolerate any attempt to ignore or humiliate it, given its strength of 193 members in the House. Whether this means that the party would contest tomorrow's election was not immediately known though it seemed unlikely.

The deputy speaker will be elected at the next session of the Lok Sabha. Traditionally, the post is offered to an opposition party.

## Bush stiff on Tehran

Second shooting incident in Panama

(Continued from Page 1)

relatives. Seemingly tying that in with the slow pace of moderate reforms in Iran, Bush regretted that positive signals of late were not bolstered by positive actions.

The US wants better relations with Iran but for now considers the prospects poor. For one thing, Tehran has not used its influence over Lebanese Shiite Muslim hostage-takers to get the Americans freed.

In his White House interview, Bush also expressed "an enormous outrage" over the killing on Saturday of an American

army officer by soldiers in Panama.

The administration is reviewing several options on possible responses, and the president pointedly did not rule out a military action.

"I think a President, all presidents, have options, but they don't discuss what they might be," Bush said. He repeated the answer when asked if military action was among the options available.

Meanwhile, Panamanian troops apparently exchanged fire with US military personnel today, the second such incident

in 48 hours, the US southern command said.

"We have received reports to the effect that there has been an incident between a member or members of the US forces and the Panamanian defence forces," spokeswoman Mercedes Morris told Reuters.

Blaming Noriega for the weekend violence, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater condemned "a climate of aggression" there and said Noriega seems to have granted a "license for harassment" against US citizens.

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04/12/1989



# Pilots evacuate trapped family

## Caretakers for Tuwalaka lodge near belching Redoubt volcano

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Dec 18, (AP) — Rescuers have evacuated a family that was trapped at a lodge in the shadow of Redoubt volcano as it continued to belch ash and steam over much of south-central Alaska.

The volcano, which had been fuming and spitting in a continuous low-level eruption since Saturday afternoon, erupted with greater force yesterday, the US geological survey said. An ash plume was spotted by an airline pilot at 27,000 feet (8,230 metres), drifting northeast toward Anchorage.

Shortly before yesterday's eruption, pilots of Alaska Helicopters Inc. evacuated Nancy Jones, her husband and 2-year-old son from Tuwalaka lodge, 10 miles (16 km) south of the volcano. For two days ash clouds and poor weather had stymied efforts to reach the Joneses, who are caretakers at the lodge.

Mrs Jones said yesterday she and her family could see little of the volcano until Saturday, when fog and snow

near the peak cleared.

"It was a little bit worrisome," she said. "We were worried the top might blow off our way and give us a bad time that way."

Another caretaker couple, Mike and Sandy Coulter, remained at Big River Lake Lodge nearly 30 miles (48 km) north of the volcano, though they had reported bunks of pumice as large as softballs falling on their roof Saturday.

They reported no serious problems and intended to stay, said the lodge's owner, Dennis Brannan.

The 10,197-foot (3,108-metre) volcano, located about 115 miles (185 km) southwest of Anchorage and quiet since the '60s, started erupting Thursday. Ash drifted as far south as Oregon. It had been expected to reach California or Arizona yesterday, but officials said there were no reports of ash reaching those states.

The continent's most notorious volcano, Mount St Helens in Washington State, also showed signs of life on

Thursday after more than three years of silence. The volcano issued a small burst of steam, gas and ash, but scientists said an eruption did not appear to be imminent.

A brief lull in Redoubt volcano enabled some stranded travellers to fly out of Anchorage.

Some holiday travellers had made it out of the airport during a break in ashfall from the volcano, but most were stuck in the city unable to get flights to the lower 48 states.

Airborne ash however, drifted south in high-level winds to Pacific Northwest states, the national weather service said.

Following the blast, the Federal Aviation Administration warned that "ashfall may be heavy" and advised airlines to scrap hastily patched together flight plans.

Even before the latest explosion, the FAA reported an ash cloud 400 miles (640 km) long, from the volcano to the Canadian border, and several hundred miles (km) wide, spokesman Paul Steucke said.

Winds sent new ash to the northeast — directly toward Anchorage. Some ash mixed with snowfall.

High-level winds captured lighter ash particles and held them captive for a journey southeast to Canada, into the air above Washington State and across the United States, NWS meteorologist Elliott Barske said.

Pilots' reports of ash above the Pacific Northwest fit wind patterns that were taking Alaska's airborne ash on a series of curving, long-distance flights over southeast Alaska to British Columbia, on to Washington and then to numerous other states.

For the second straight day yesterday all arrival and departure listings for Delta Air Lines were marked "cancelled," just above Delta's "we love to fly" — and it shows" slogan on TV flight monitors at the airport.

"Everyone's trying to get the hell out of here — anywhere," said Rich McMannus, in Anchorage on business and trying to go home to Sacramento, California.

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

## Random Drug testing

LANDOVER, Maryland: While the deafening rock 'n' roll band Motley Crue sent 16,000 screaming teenagers into high-decibel heaven, Phil and Kathy Hawkins sat across the hall writing Christmas cards in a quiet paradise reserved for the kids' chauffeurs.

The Hawkinses joined more than 200 other parents recently in the "Quiet Room" at the Capital Centre, a suburban Washington arena that says it pioneered the idea of providing a noise-free sanctuary for parents who drive their children to rock concerts.

Since the Capital Centre opened its Quiet Room in October 1986, similar facilities for parents have spread to arenas in many other major cities.

"We always had people dropping off their kids and then driving home again until the concert was over," said Matt Amodeo, a Capital Centre spokesman. "Rather than drive long distances, some parents would sit in their cars and wait for three hours."

When some parents began huddling in the lobby for warmth, Amodeo and his colleagues invited them into the arena's capital club restaurant, where they were offered free snacks and soft drinks, magazines and low-volume TV sets. (AP)

WASHINGTON, Dec 18, (AP) — Four million transportation workers face the prospect of being required to give urine samples on short notice as random drug testing begins today.

In some cases, computers are selecting pilots, flight attendants and other employees to be tested. Rules in the airline industry take effect first, with maritime, railroad, trucking, transit and pipeline companies to follow over the next several weeks.

Some airlines indicate they will delay random testing until early next year, but others say employees could be subject to unannounced tests beginning today for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines and phenylhydrazine, also known as PCP.

Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, who is considering the addition of testing for alcohol, has said he expects the drug tests to uncover "alarming" drug use by people responsible for travellers' safety.

But employee groups, noting that 25,000 random tests on transportation department employees resulted in a minuscule number of positive results — about 0.5 per cent — say the random testing is a waste of time and money and an intrusion. The rules also require pre-employment, post-accident, reasonable cause and periodic tests.

Testing in aviation will include pilots, flight engineers, flight navigators, aircraft dispatchers, mechanics, repairmen, flight attendants, aviation security screeners, ground security coordinators, controllers and ground instructors.

NEW YORK: Actress Darryl Hannah has looks, luck and John F. Kennedy Jr. — but she remembers things being quite different when she was growing up.

"I had no figure until I was 18," Hannah said in a recent interview. As far as meeting men, she says, "I didn't know how to make friends. I met people in grocery stores. Usually I'd go out with a girlfriend so we could dance with each other; we didn't want to dance with people we didn't know."

Hannah, who starred in "Roxanne," "Wall Street" and "Steel Dawn," said she decides which roles to accept these days based strictly on the script.

"My basic concern is the writing. Now I'll choose movies by my affinity for the characters," she said. "As long as I have an empathy for the character and can do a good job, I don't care if the character is 'good' or 'antagonistic.'" (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Frank Sinatra's lawyer has warned impersonator Nick Edenetti that his one-man show violates a Sinatra trademark.

"The whole thing is bogus. I've never heard of vocal qualities being trademarks," Edenetti said, adding he will ignore the legal threat and continue his Las Vegas theatre performances.

Sinatra publicist Susan Reynolds wouldn't comment on the lawsuit. But in a stunt to advertise the opening of "Nick Edenetti stars as Sinatra," the impersonator's publicist distributed at the theatre a "cease and desist" letter from Sinatra attorney Robert Finkelstein. (AP)

POMPANO BEACH, Florida: Nadia Comaneci plopped down nearly \$20,000 in traveller's cheques on a Camaro convertible and shopped her way through clothing stores this week, sales clerks said.

Escorted by Constantin Panait, the married roofer who has accompanied the Olympic gold-medal gymnast since she fled Romania, Ms Comaneci was staying in a 130-dollar-a-night suite at the best Western beachcomber resort and villas in Pompano Beach.

Thomas Martin, a salesman at Maroon Chevrolet, said he sold Ms Comaneci the Camaro, a black convertible automatic with gray bucket seats.

She originally had her eye on a used Corvair, he said, but Martin steered her towards the convertible.

Dealership manager Ken Pataki said Ms Comaneci whipped out a wad of travellers cheques to close the deal.

At a department store she got a 30 per cent discount on a \$184 "social dress," a knee-length white jersey decorated with pearls and beads, said Phyllis Post, a clerk at the store. She also stopped at the cosmetic and shoe counters, she added.

The stay at the hotel and some of the shopping spree and her bar tab were apparently paid by British tabloids, which sent writers and photographers to accompany Ms Comaneci, hotel employees said. (AP)

DETROIT: A holiday painting by American illustrator Norman Rockwell, originally commissioned for an automobile commercial, drew a record \$264,000 for a work by the popular folk artist at an auction.

The original oil on canvas, "Merry Christmas, Grandma. We came in our New Plymouth," was bought for a Japanese collector, said Judy Goffman, a top New York dealer in American illustration.

Goffman would not reveal the identity of the Japanese collector, gallery officials said.

"It's the first time a Japanese buyer has purchased anything of an American illustrator for that type of price," said Joseph Dumouchelle, the gallery auctioneer.

The piece was commissioned by the Plymouth division of Chrysler Corp. and originally appeared as an advertisement in the December, 1950 issue of Life magazine, Dumouchelle said.

It depicts a family at the door of a house on Christmas day, their arms loaded with holiday gifts. (UPI)

## Security alert for US judges

MOUNTAIN BROOK, Alabama, Dec 18, (AP) — US Federal Judges were placed on security alert and the FBI gave top priority to finding out who mailed a bomb that killed an appeals court judge in his kitchen.

FBI agents also said the search for the assassin of 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Robert S. Vance was aided by a hospital bed interview yesterday with Vance's wife, Helen.

She was listed today in serious but stable condition from wounds suffered in the explosion.

Vance, 58, who fought for racial moderation and progressive stands in Alabama during 11 years as state chairman of the Democratic Party, was killed instantly Saturday when the package exploded in his home in Birmingham's most exclusive suburb.

He was the third federal judge to be assassinated in 10 years. The three are believed to be the only federal jurists killed this century.

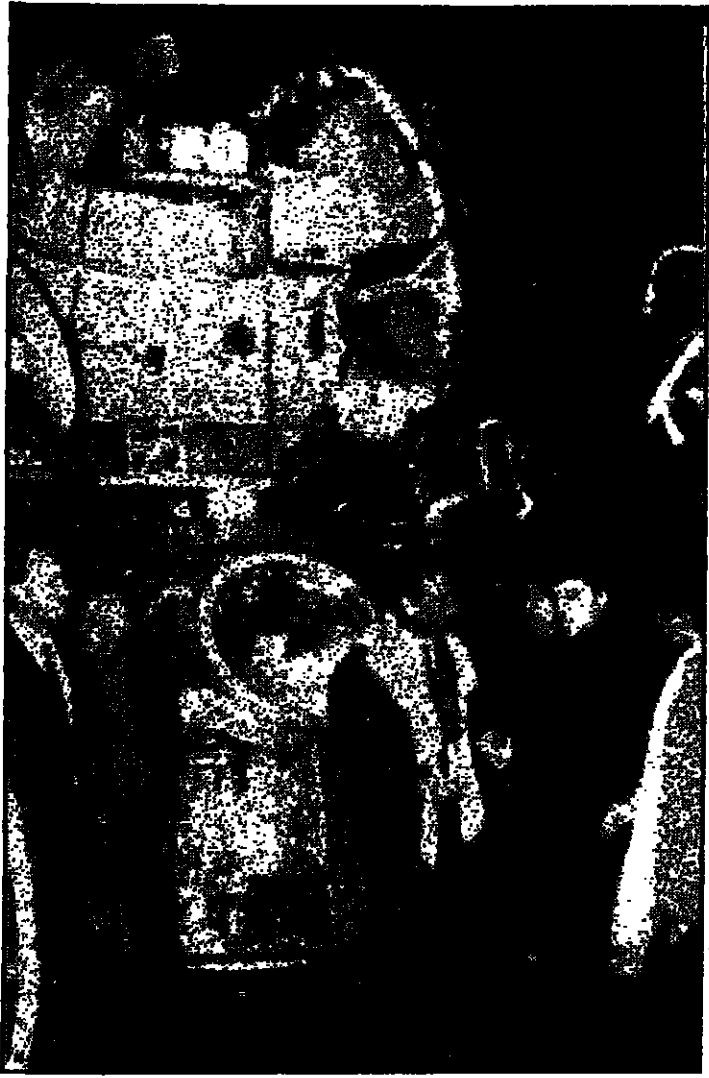
Tom Moore, an FBI spokesman, said "specific leads" had been developed, but he declined to elaborate. Authorities said Vance had received no threats to his life before the explosion and hadn't requested protection.

On speculation of a possible connection to drug cases Vance may have handled, Moore said, "it is not being ruled out, but it is no more prominent than several other avenues we are following. We are reviewing his full caseload."

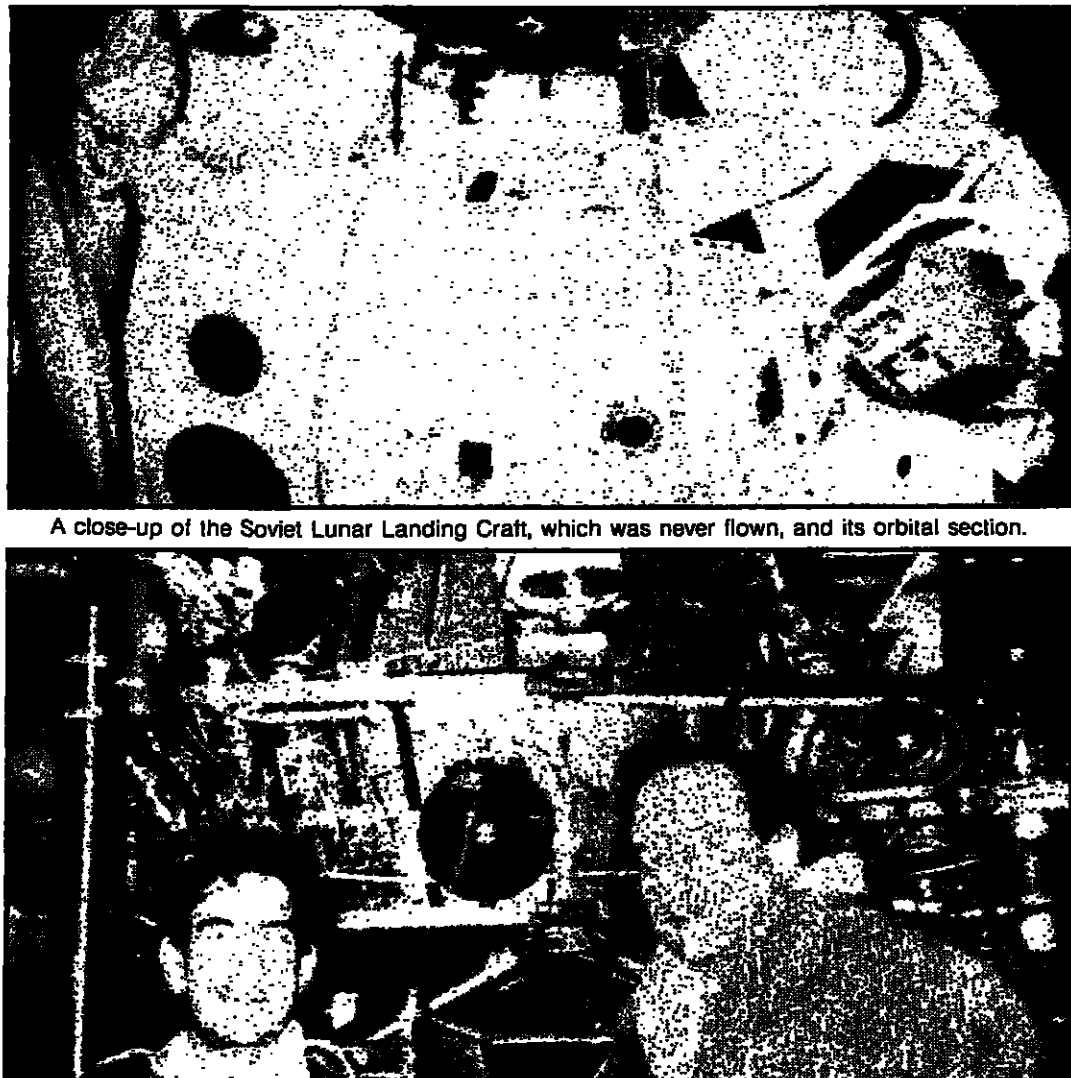
Vance, appointed to the appeals court in 1977, served in a circuit that reviewed cases from Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Authorities said the 11th circuit caseload was varied, although most of the cases were drug related.

But investigators said the attack might have been unrelated to his work.



Young and Crawley speak with people in front of the Lunar Orbiter. (Reuter wirephoto)



A close-up of the Soviet Lunar Landing Craft, which was never flown, and its orbital section. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Finally admitting to moon race

# Soviets reveal lunar spacecraft

BOSTON, Dec 18, (AP) — Photos released yesterday of a never-used lunar spacecraft provide firm evidence the Soviet Union raced the United States to put a human on the moon — something many suspected but the Soviets long denied.

Soviet space officials revealed the landing craft and a return-to-Earth module last month to a group of US aeronautics professors who toured the Moscow Aviation Institute.

"We are almost positive that we are the first Westerners to have seen this," said Edward F. Crawley of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Soviets told the Americans that the spacecraft was ready to fly the year before the US Apollo 11 mission reached the moon in 1969. But the project was abandoned because of difficulty perfecting the rocket booster that would have carried some of the equipment into space.

The Americans saw the Soviet gear on Nov 27, and MIT released Kerrebrock's photos yesterday. They said the Soviets were nonchalant about showing off the hardware.

"It was offhand," said Jack L. Kerrebrock, MIT's acting dean of engineering, who took the photographs. "They took us into the room that houses this hardware to show it to us as part of their educational programme. Indeed, this is how it's used by students. They crawl around it and make drawings of it."

The Americans said the Soviet equipment resembled the US landing craft except for two major details: The Soviet setup required two rockets rather than one to carry it into space. And it would have carried one person rather than two to the surface of the moon.

"What's newsworthy is they are just now admitting that they were trying to get to the moon. They always denied it," said Lee Saegesser, archivist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington.

The Soviets first acknowledged the lunar programme in October, when the newspaper Pravda published an interview with Vasily P. Mishin, its chief designer.

The Americans were shown the equipment by their Moscow host, professor Oleg Alifanov. The Americans — five from MIT and one from the California Institute of Technology — were in the Soviet Union to help set up an exchange programme with the Soviet Aerospace Institute.

Crawley said the Soviets showed a "mixture of pride that they had built it and sorrow that they had never used it and concern that on one had ever heard about it."

Americans Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin were the first to set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969. The era ended three years later

when Apollo 17 astronauts made the sixth and final lunar landing.

The Americans said the Soviets told them the lunar lander part of the mission was ready to go in 1968, and they were under pressure because of the Apollo successes. However, setbacks in the development of the Soviet's N1 booster rocket held up the mission.

They said the moon programme was put on hold in 1972 and cancelled in 1974. The Soviets then gave priority to their space station project.

The N1 booster would have carried the lunar landing craft into space, while a proton rocket would have lifted a spacecraft intended to bring the cosmonauts back to Earth.

The Americans said the Soviet landing craft, complete with extendable landing legs, was designed much like the US version.

"There is a lot of similarity due to form and function," said Crawley.

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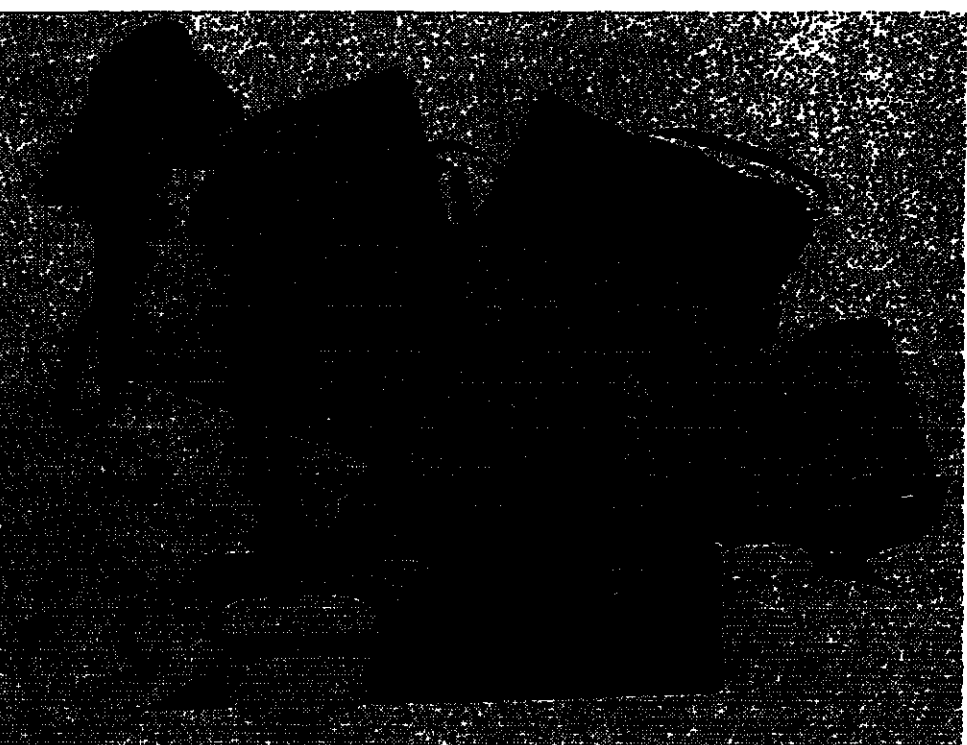
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Colombian President Virgilio Barco arrives in Guayaquil. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Home town mourns Gacha

BOGOTA, Colombia, Dec 18, (AP): Thousands in the home town of Gonzalo Gacha ran as a fiefdom turned out to mourn the slain drug dealer, though the government has characterised his death as victory for the Colombian people.

The bodies of Rodriguez Gacha and his 17-year-old son Fredy, along with five of their bodyguards, had originally been buried late Saturday at public expense in a common grave in Sincelajo, near where the drug dealers were killed in a shootout with Colombian police forces on Friday.

But Colombian authorities yesterday authorised exhumation of the body of Rodriguez Gacha and his son, and relatives took the remains to Pacho, a rural town 40 kilometres (24 miles) from Bogota.

In Pacho, a town of 20,000 where Rodriguez Gacha was born, thousands attended the burial at the local cemetery in a luxurious wooden coffin.

Police remained on alert in the area and no incidents were reported.

Peasants near Rodriguez Gacha's Pacho ranch have told reporters that the cocaine baron gave away thousands of dollars, providing money for medical treatment and for seed and equipment when local farmers there could not get loans from the government's farm bank.

Police acknowledged that Rodriguez Gacha's popularity with peasants had made it difficult to trap him.

President Virgilio Barco, in his first public comment about the police shootout in which Rodriguez Gacha was killed, said yesterday that the death was a victory in the war against the cocaine cartels.

"Our only objective is to meet our responsibility to the country," Barco told reporters in Guayaquil, Ecuador, after arriving for a meeting with other presidents of the Andean Pact.

"It is not my battle," he said. "It is a battle that Colombia has won."

At the Ecuador meeting, Barco and the presidents of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela were expected to discuss strategy against the common problem of cocaine trafficking.

Security forces tracked Rodriguez Gacha to a farm owned by Pablo Escobar, his confederate in the Medellin cocaine cartel, near the Caribbean port of Covenas, 360 miles (580 kilometres) north of Bogota. Rodriguez Gacha, his son and five bodyguards were killed in the fierce battle that ensued, according to national police force officials.

Police said the raid on Rodriguez' hideout was carried out by more than 1,000 security force members, supported by seven helicopters, and followed weeks of intelligence work.

The government's success in tracking down Rodriguez Gacha drew praise from Colombian newspapers, which a week ago were suggesting that Barco had all but lost his struggle against the traffickers.

In August, after the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan, the government declared war on the traffickers, who responded with a series of threats, killings and bombings.

# Conservatives win regional elections in Galicia

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, Spain, Dec 18, (AP): Veteran conservative leader Manuel Fraga set out to form a government in his native Galicia today after his Popular Party won a one-seat parliamentary majority in regional elections.

The list headed by Fraga, 67, a former Franco-era minister who has run unsuccessfully for prime minister of Spain three times, was allotted 36 of the 75 seats in the regional

parliament after winning 41.31 per cent of the vote in the elections held yesterday. The Popular Party was to take over from a governing coalition headed by socialist Fernando Gonzalez Laxe. The socialists won 32.57 per cent of the vote and were assigned 28 seats, according to official provisional results announced after midnight.

The Galician Nationalist Bloc won 8.13 per cent of the vote and five seats, up from

one seat in 1985. The big loser was the Galician coalition, which went down from 11 seats in 1985 to two seats in the new parliament, winning just 3.80 per cent of the vote.

Regional nationalist parties govern either with majorities or in coalition in other Spanish historic regions like Catalonia and the Basque country, but nationalist parties have never been strong in Galicia and suffered a

further decline yesterday. Of the 16 regional nationalist parties that ran candidates, only three managed to win a total of 10 seats, down from the 15 seats that went to nationalist parties in the race for a smaller, 71-seat parliament in 1985. Four seats have been added this year to reflect population shifts to urban centres.

Nearly 60 per cent of Galicia's more than 2.2 million registered voters cast ballots,

braving heavy rains that blew down power and telephone lines and forced officials at some polling places to delay their opening.

The Popular Party's predecessor, the Popular Coalition, won 34 seats in the 1985 elections, while the socialists won 22.

Spain's leading daily El Pais called the victory "a significant personal triumph" for Fraga, who resigned from his party's

national leadership three years ago after a series of humiliating defeats and hinted he would go into retirement.

Fraga was minister of tourism and information and ambassador to Britain during the 1939-75 authoritarian government of Gen. Francisco Franco. He was also minister of government immediately after Franco's death and was elected deputy to the national parliament.

## US, Panama trade insults

Americans accused of provocation

PANAMA CITY, Dec 18, (AP): Military officers from the United States and Panama have met to discuss a weekend confrontation in which a US officer died, opposition politicians said.

US authorities refused to comment on the report of a meeting yesterday to discuss the incident, in which another US officer was wounded and a navy couple

beaten. The contact was reported to be through the joint board, a liaison between the two countries' military forces that deals with Panama Canal security and defence.

Earlier in a statement, the US southern command, which has headquarters in Panama, said the officer slain Saturday was

"off duty, unarmed and in civilian clothes when he and three others were stopped by Panamanian soldiers near the (Panamanian) defence headquarters in the old section of Panama City."

The Panamanians tried to drag the Americans out of their car and fired at them as they drove off, killing one officer, it said. His identity was withheld, pending notification of relatives.

The Panamanian defence forces accused the US officers of a provocation, without mentioning the American's death or acknowledging the arrest of the navy officer.

It said the American soldiers broke through the checkpoints and fired at the headquarters, wounding a soldier and two civilians, including a 1-year-old girl.

The Pentagon said a US Navy lieutenant and his wife were stopped at the same roadblock as the other soldiers a half-hour earlier and witnessed the shooting. The Panamanians then blindfolded both with masking tape and interrogated and beat them for about four hours.

The Pentagon said the man was kicked in the groin and head and the woman slammed against the wall so hard that her head was cut before they were released.

Panamanian troops yesterday blocked streets leading to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's with trucks and buses, while US soldiers guarded their bases.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in his statement, "the lack of discipline and control in the Panamanian defence forces is further evidence that Panama is a country without a government."

The 12,000 US troops stationed in the Panama Canal area were restricted to base Sunday and only authorised movement was permitted.

The White House has deplored the killing of a US officer in Panama and termed it a "consequence" of the country's being under the rule of strongman Noriega.

White House deputy spokesman Roman Popadiuk said President George Bush was informed of the situation in Panama by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and was being kept apprised.

"We deplore this act of violence. We are presently looking into the circumstances of this incident," said Popadiuk.

He added: "The Noriega regime is isolated both domestically and internationally and has been using force and intimidation to thwart the will of the Panamanian people. Acts such as those of last evening are the consequence of such a regime."

## Witness to Jesuit priest killings

## Horror couple retracts testimony

NEW YORK, Dec 18, (AP): A woman who said she witnessed Salvadoran soldiers moving towards the residence where six Jesuit priests were murdered was so intimidated by FBI agents and a Salvadoran army interrogator that she recanted her story, according to an official of a human rights organisation.

From Nov 27 to Nov 30, Lucia Barrera de Cerna, a cleaning woman at the Jesuit University in San Salvador, and her husband, Jorge Cerna, were repeatedly asked by the agents and the colonel what they saw the night of the killings, said Martha Doggett of the lawyers committee for human rights.

When they told of having seen Salvadoran soldiers moving to and from the priests' residences, they were accused of lying and asked, "who put you up to this?" Ms Doggett said today.

After three days of interrogation, Ms Barrera "couldn't take it anymore. She wanted to be left in peace," said Ms Doggett.

On Nov 30, when asked to "tell us again what you saw from the window," Ms Barrera replied:

"Tell us again what you saw from the window." Ms Barrera replied: "I didn't see anything from the window," Ms Doggett said.

That night, she told her husband what she had done and the next day he too recanted. Both of them failed lie detector tests when they repeated their story that they had not seen the soldiers.

Duty officers at the FBI and the State Department in Washington said there was no one available to comment on the matter.

The New York Times quoted the couple as saying the investigators threatened them with deportation.

They told the newspaper they were so scared during an intense interrogation that they retracted their original testimony.

The Times said that among the investigators was Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Antonio Rivas Majia, head of El Salvador's special investigative unit, who was introduced to the Cernas as "doctor."

## Andean summit

Drugs high on the agenda

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Dec 18, (Reuters): Five Andean presidents left here yesterday to attend a two-day summit in Ecuador's Galapagos islands under tight security two days after Colombia won a major victory in its war on narcotics by killing an alleged drug lord.

"The support that we have received (from Andean countries) is... fundamental to us because it is very important to count on the support of our brothers in the five countries," Colombian President Virgilio Barco told reporters here, referring to the drugs war.

"From the physical and action point of view we are managing the situation," he added.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez praised Barco, saying, "we see the courage with which the Colombian people led by President Virgilio Barco are opening the way (to fight drugs)."

Ecuadorian soldiers carrying machine guns guarded the military airbase in Guayaquil. Flights to and from the neighbouring international airport were suspended briefly yesterday for security reasons, government spokesmen said.

An official said up to 1,000 Ecuadorian troops were deployed in the summit area to protect the presidents from a possible attack by drug traffickers.

US soldiers prevent a vehicle, flying the Panamanian flag, from entering Ft Amador, a base run by the US and Panama. (Reuters wirephoto)

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De Mello flashes the 'V' sign after casting his vote. (Reuters wirephoto)



Da Silva's supporters parade through the streets of Brasilia. (Reuters wirephoto)



A woman and her children flash the 'V' symbol for Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Sao Paulo. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Brazil magnate freed

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 18, (UPI): A four-nation kidnapping ring freed Brazilian billionaire Abilio Diniz yesterday after six days of captivity, and surrendered, accepting authorities' promises of legal protection.

One-by one the abductors, one woman and four men, surrendered and left the two-story safehouse in the city of Sao Paulo that police had surrounded during a tense overnight siege.

Diniz, 52, appeared haggard but happy in a yellow-brown polo shirt as he followed his abductors from the building. A supermarket magnate and chairman of the Brazilian multinational conglomerate Pao de Acucar, Diniz's fortune is estimated at \$2 billion.

The surrender came after police granted a demand and summoned Roman Catholic Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, Sao Paulo's archbishop, to the scene and joined the negotiations. The archbishop was accompanied by diplomatic representatives of the consulates of Canada, Argentina and Chile.

Five other members of the ring were picked up earlier in the week following Diniz's abduction Monday morning. Police said the gang comprised two Argentines, five Chileans, one Brazilian and two Canadians.

The five suspects arrested yesterday filed into a police bus after surrendering a submachine gun and pistols and submitting to body searches.

Diniz was brought to a window of the building Sunday morning where journalists could see that he, too, was alive.

Police and Diniz's family kept his kidnapping secret for five days, but by Saturday detectives had tracked the assailants to the house in the Jabotocara neighbourhood of Sao Paulo, 270 miles (434 km) southwest of Rio de Janeiro.

## Final run-off for Brazil presidency

## De Mello leading

BRASILIA, Dec 18, (AP): Brazil's largest television network today projected rightist Fernando Collor de Mello as the winner of the nation's first presidential election since 1960.

Collor de Mello leads with 29.4 million votes to 26.9 million votes for socialist candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva with 78.3 per cent of the ballots counted, according to Globo TV, which used its computers to tally the unofficial returns from individual states in the election yesterday.

Today, Collor de Mello also passed da Silva in the official count by the Supreme Electoral Court. With just 22 per cent of the returns in Collor de Mello led with 7.7 million votes, or 42.5 per cent of the total. Da Silva had 7.4 million votes, or 41 per cent. The rest were blank or nullified votes.

Da Silva's early lead was due to early returns from urban centres, where he is stronger. Collor de Mello was expected to grow with the tabulation of returns from remote interior venues, where he has more support.

Some members of Da Silva's Workers Party charged that buses were kept off the streets in several cities where their candidate was expected to do well. Electoral court president Jose Francisco Rezak

promised to study the complaint. An exit survey, by the Brazilian Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics, gave Collor de Mello 52 per cent of the vote to da Silva's 48 per cent. Another, by Datafolha, gave Collor de Mello 51.5 per cent of the electorate and Da Silva 48.5 per cent.

"We are not celebrating yet, but we are relieved because the polls are confirming our expectations of victory," said Claudio Humberto Rosa Silva, spokesman for Collor de Mello's rightist National Reconstruction Party.

Officials of da Silva's Workers Party said it was too early to concede defeat.

"We are not going to get discouraged because these polls give just a small slice of the total and don't take into account abstentions," said Marcio Araujo, a spokesman of the Workers Party.

Millions flocked to the polls Sunday from the teeming Amazon rain forest to the concrete sprawl of Brazil's southeastern cities.

Unofficial reports from polling stations in several major cities showed lower than expected voter turnout partly due to heavy rains in central, northeastern and far southern Brazil.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**India jolted by quake:** A moderate earthquake rattled this desert town but no major damage or injuries were reported, authorities said. The quake struck at 10:27 pm yesterday (0627 GMT) today and measured 4.2 on the Richter scale, said Robert Finn, a spokesman for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

It was centred nine miles (15 km) east-northeast of Indio, a community 125 miles (200 km) east of Los Angeles. (AP)

**Yet another delay:** The shuttle Columbia's twice-delayed launch fell another day behind schedule over the weekend, to no earlier than Friday, and ongoing problems could ground the ship until after Christmas, officials said yesterday.

Shuttle programme director Robert Crippen announced Columbia's second delay Friday, saying he was "reasonably confident" the spaceplane and its three-man, two-woman crew would be able to take off Thursday — three days behind schedule.

But within hours of Crippen's launch delay statement, the second in four days, engineers ran into more problems at launch pad 39A and by Saturday, managers had decided they would be unable to start the shuttle's countdown today as planned. (UPI)

**Titan set for launch:** Engineers made final preparations yesterday for the twice-delayed maiden launch of a towering Titan 3 rocket today, the most powerful commercially-developed booster built by an American company.

"They're doing the last-minute things today, hooking up the batteries, making adjustments," said Robert Gordon, a spokesman for rocket-builder Martin Marietta astronautics group of Denver.

Liftoff was scheduled for 0020 GMT today from launch complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station adjacent to the Kennedy Space Centre. Air force weather officers called for a 40 per cent chance of rain and thick clouds that could violate tough post-Challenger launch guidelines.

Mounted atop the unmanned 155-foot rocket is Skyner 4A, a British military communications satellite, and JCSAT 2, a \$150 million commercial relay station owned by Japan Satellite Communications Co. and Hughes Communications Inc. (UPI)

**Emergency landing:** A Fokker-100 aircraft of the British company Air Europe made an emergency landing at Copenhagen airport yesterday after a fire was detected behind the co-pilot's seat, a Copenhagen airport spokesman said yesterday.

None of the 81 passengers and 7 crew were hurt in the landing, in which two of the aircraft's tyres appeared to have punctured, the spokesman added.

## US Navy retires N-arms

WASHINGTON, Dec 18, (UPI): The navy has completed the retirement of two types of nuclear weapons and reduced the number of US nuclear-capable surface ships from 187 to 49, the lowest level since the 1950s. Greenpeace said yesterday.

The Defence Department declined comment on the number of US nuclear-capable ships still active, but a defence official said it has been public knowledge for months that the navy was retiring its older, obsolete nuclear weapons.

The official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, stressed that the retirement of these weapons systems should not be seen as a signal to the Soviet Union that the United States is ready for naval arms control.

"This is not a token gesture," the official said. "These are old (weapons) systems, obsolete, from the late '50s and early '60s. A real pain in the butt maintenance-wise."

Greenpeace, an anti-nuclear environmental organisation, said in a news release it had obtained completion dates for retirement of the weapons systems from the Energy Department under the freedom of information act.

Handwritten signature or mark.



# Gringo calls for major reforms in Philippines

Ramos refuses to resign: Aquino to reshuffle cabinet

MANILA, Dec 18, (Agencies): Army rebels today called for a new military-backed government and far-reaching reforms in the Philippines, saying the country was "so sick that it needs major surgery."

In a 24-point set of demands for President Corason Aquino, rebel leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan called for an end to the Roman Catholic church's intervention in politics, reform of the justice system and an amnesty for political offenders.

In a statement published today by the opposition newspaper News-

day, the cashiered army colonel urged Aquino to either form a coalition government to implement radical reforms or step down in favour of a new governing council "under the protection of the soldiers of the people."

"Our country is so sick that it needs major surgery before its ailment becomes incurable," the manifesto declared.

"Our country is so sick that it needs major surgery before its ailment becomes incurable," the manifesto declared.

Aquino yesterday ordered the immediate trial of leaders of the Dec 1-7 military coup attempt, branding them traitors paid "30 pieces of silver" to bring her down.

In a national radio broadcast, she said the rebel leaders would be shown no mercy.

She urged civilians to come forward with information that could help prosecute leaders of the revolt in which more than 100 people were killed and 600 wounded.

Armed forces spokesman Oscar Florendo said several of the top leaders, including Honasan, were still at large but added the military leadership favoured tough penalties for those who headed the putsch.

In his statement, Honasan described the next period as phase two of the coup, and said they would organise 2.5 million people in a national day of protest to help end what the rebels refer to as "a reign of hatred, greed, lust and terror." He did not say when.

Honasan, a leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) which helped overthrow former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, says Aquino's government favours the rich, tolerates corruption and has failed to provide leadership.

The manifesto demanded that the remains of Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii last September, should be allowed back for burial in the Philippines.

The demand adds weight to reports of a tactical alliance between RAM officers and former Marcos supporters to help stage the coup attempt.

Armed forces commander General Renato de Villa said on Saturday that Honasan had formed an alliance to mount the coup with Brigadier-General Jose Maria Zúñiga, a Marcos loyalist and former head of the Philippine Military Academy.

Honasan called for price controls, fair wages for workers, and an end to what he called "the materialistic and satanic political intervention of the prince of the church with a cardinal sin in his name."

This was a reference to the influential archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, a strong supporter of Aquino, who said on Friday that Honasan and other coup leaders must be "hunted down and punished."

Political commentator and former Marcos labour minister Blas Ople said in a newspaper column today that the rebels had apparently intended to establish a military government after the coup, with a civilian advisory council.

It would later transfer power to a broad-based civilian-military government which would prepare for national elections within six months or a year.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos today dismissed an opposition call for his resignation.

The opposition Nacionalista Party in a statement said Ramos should lead a mass resignation of Aquino's cabinet "to heal the fractured unity of the armed forces of the Philippines, which, if it continues, will fuel more division and unrest."

"We come and go at the pleasure of the president, but why don't we just wait for the announced revamp of the president, which she has already publicly stated will take place before the end of the year," Ramos told reporters.

The aircraft returned to China early Sunday morning with 208 people on board, including Zhang's wife and 13-year-old son. The other 14 passengers, excluding Zhang, remained in Japan to continue on to the United States on other flights, news reports said.

Zhang told investigators earlier that he wanted to flee China following the June military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, in which he said he took part.

Denard faces a jail sentence in France for leading a failed coup in the West African nation of Benin in 1977. He also faces arrest in a suit brought by relatives of mercenaries killed in the unsuccessful coup bid.

The Frenchmen led two other coups in the 1970s that first ousted and then returned Abdallah to power in the former French colony.

The police spokeswoman in Paris said

six of the mercenaries arrived on a South African Airways flight from Johannesburg. The other three arrived later on a flight from Lisbon, Portugal.

South African government sources reported Saturday that 18 mercenaries had left Johannesburg for an unspecified destination.

The 650-member presidential guard seized control of the islands after the Abdallah's assassination and disarmed the regular army.



Learning 'socialist values'

Beijing University students, wearing army uniforms, stand at attention during military training. After the crushing of the student led pro-democracy movement in June, the government required all university

students to undergo compulsory military training to re-learn 'socialist values.' (Reuter wirephoto)

## Seoul arrests radical leader

SEOUL, Dec 18, (AP): The leader of South Korea's radical student movement, a fugitive on the most-wanted list, was arrested today when he showed up at a university campus for a television interview, police said.

Im Chong-Suk, 23, and five student bodyguards were overpowered by about 20 plain clothes police at Seoul's Kyonghee University while he was waiting for a Korean broadcasting television crew, police said.

Im has been on the police wanted list since last March, with a reward of \$7,400 offered for information leading to his arrest. He is head of the outlawed radical National Council of Student Representatives, or Chondaehyop.

Police said Im and other radical leaders instigated social unrest and violence and expressed views sympathetic with communist North Korea, a hostile nation since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

Police said Im would be charged with violations of the national security law. Im told reporters at police headquarters he had planned to discuss Korean unification in the television interview, which was not held.

Meanwhile, riot police ringed the Seoul District Criminal Court today where another radical student and member of the same group was on trial for violating national security laws by making an unauthorised visit to North Korea.

About 100 radical students shouting "Free the flower of unification" and "abolish national security laws" were blocked by police from entering the courthouse where Im Su-Kyong, a 20-year-old student, was in the fourth day of her trial. The students were later detained by the police. They were dragged away after defying an order to disperse.

Miss Im, no relation to the student leader, arrived with her hands handcuffed and tied with rope, under tight security. Previous trial days have been disrupted by students yelling anti-government slogans and throwing paper flowers and paper airplanes in the courtroom.

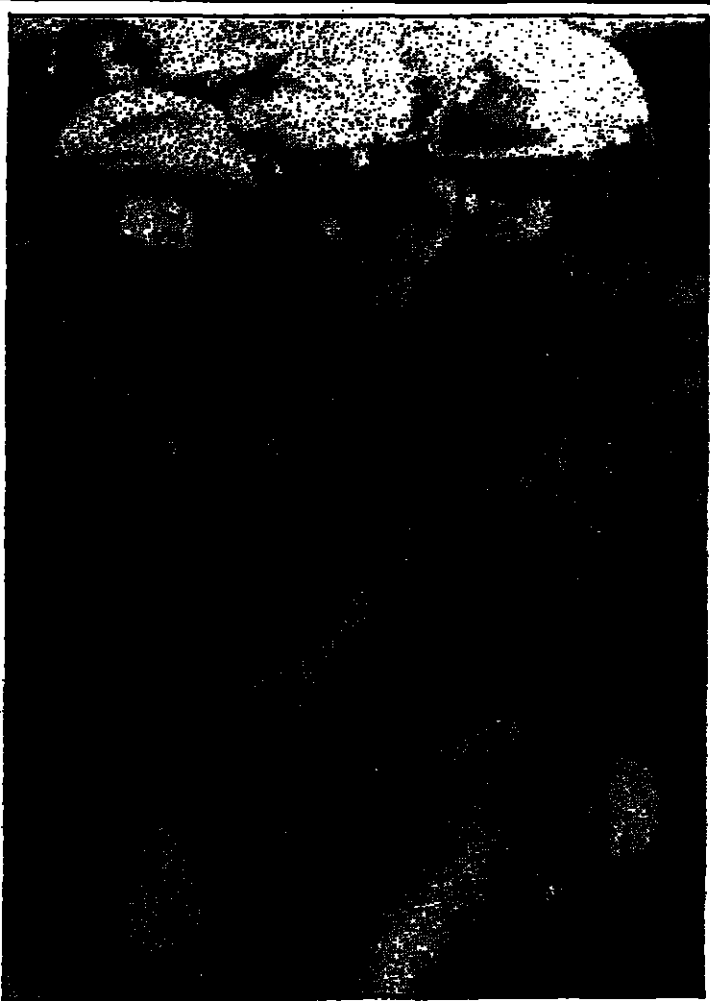
Miss Im is charged with illegally travelling to North Korea's capital of Pyongyang as a representative of the radical student movement to attend a July 1-8 youth festival. She returned to South Korea Aug 15 through the demilitarised zone which separates the two Koreas.

A US-educated Roman Catholic priest, Rev. Moon Gyu-Hyun, is on trial with her, charged with going to the North to accompany her home. Moon said he went because Miss Im was a Catholic in need of support.

If convicted, Miss Im and Moon could receive up to 10 years in prison.

The Seoul government bans unauthorised trips to North Korea and maintains that dialogue on unification must be conducted through official channels, not by private citizens.

Radical students demand the overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo and the withdrawal of 43,000 US troops stationed in South Korea.



South Korean riot police arrest an anti-government demonstrator outside a Seoul court. (Reuter wirephoto)



Im Su-Kyong (centre) is escorted by two prison guards to a Seoul court. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Hun Sen must go, Sihanouk demands

Australian meets Prince

BEIJING, Dec 18, (AP): Cambodian opposition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk told an Australian envoy today that his resistance coalition will vacate its UN seat only if the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia is dismantled.

Michael Costello, Australia's deputy secretary of Foreign Affairs, briefed Sihanouk and Chinese leaders separately on the Australian suggestion that the United Nations set up an interim administration in Cambodia so free elections can be held.

Sihanouk has said free elections are not possible under the Vietnamese-installed government of Hun Sen. Hun Sen has demanded that the resistance coalition vacate Cambodia's seat in the United Nations, to ensure UN impartiality while it acts as trustee.

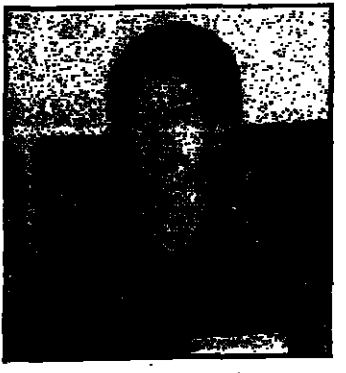
Costello's meeting at Sihanouk's residence in Beijing was closed, but the prince later issued a 27-page open letter to Costello, condemning Hun Sen's government and specifying his terms for

any UN trusteeship.

"I don't accept declaring Cambodia's seat vacant before the simultaneous dismantling of the (resistance) and Hun Sen's 'state of Cambodia,' and the replacement of the illegal, pro-Vietnamese administration of Hun Sen with a purely UN administration in all villages and provinces," the letter said.

Vietnam invaded neighbouring Cambodia in late 1978 and ousted the ruling Khmer Rouge, who had imposed a reign of terror, and put Hun Sen in power. The United Nations and many governments, including that of the United States, recognise Sihanouk's three-party resistance coalition, which includes the Khmer Rouge, as the rightful Cambodian government.

Hun Sen has announced elections, but has rejected Sihanouk's demand that he first dismantle his government and set up an interim government representing all Cambodian parties, including the Khmer Rouge.



Honasan: rebel

## Japan to extradite hijacker to China

TOKYO, Dec 18, (AP): A top government official said today that Japan soon will begin procedures for extraditing a man suspected of hijacking a Chinese airliner to Japan.

But investigators remain unable to question the suspect, Zhang Zhenxi, 35, who reportedly told police he hijacked the plane to escape political repression in China.

Zhang has been hospitalised with a broken pelvis after being pushed out of the plane by a crew member when it landed at Fukuoka airport, 899 kilometres (557 miles) southwest of Tokyo. Investigators say they have been unable to question him because of his condition.

Police began gathering information from airport and hospital officials about the hijacking, in which an Air China Boeing 747 headed to the United States was forced to go to Japan.

Mayumi Moriyama, chief government spokeswoman, said the Japanese government is planning to "proceed promptly with procedures to transfer" Zhang to China, based on Japanese law and an international anti-hijacking agreement, once China makes an official request.

Zhang's wife and son, who were on the flight with him, have already been returned to China. Ms Moriyama said China has expressed its willingness to seek the transfer of the hijacker through diplomatic channels, but did not say when the transfer would take place.

The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft stipulates that the country in which a hijacked plane lands can try the suspect under its own laws or can hand him over to the country in which the airplane is registered. Japan and China are among 138 signatories of the convention.

Despite the possibility that Zhang may seek political asylum abroad, the Japanese government decided to hand him over to China because of the importance of retaining friendship with China, deputy cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishitara told reporters earlier.

The Air China plane, carrying 223 people, was flying from Beijing to New York with stops scheduled at Shanghai and San Francisco. It was hijacked shortly after it left Beijing, and, after the pilot failed to receive permission to land in Seoul, South Korea, landed at Japan's Fukuoka airport.

The aircraft returned to China early Sunday morning with 208 people on board, including Zhang's wife and 13-year-old son. The other 14 passengers, excluding Zhang, remained in Japan to continue on to the United States on other flights, news reports said.

Zhang told investigators earlier that he wanted to flee China following the June military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, in which he said he took part.

## China, US hold talks

Fulbright programme may be resumed

BEIJING, Dec 18, (Agencies): China and the United States said today they have opened talks on resuming the Fulbright scholar exchange programme, which had been a victim of the decline in bilateral relations after China's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

China's State Education Commission and the US embassy said representatives met for the first time last week — just days after US National Security

Adviser Brent Scowcroft's fence-mending visit to Beijing.

Neither side linked the talks to Scowcroft's visit, but embassy spokesman Ed Loo acknowledged, "there wasn't much going on before." He said the United States had been seeking a renewal of the government-sponsored Fulbright programme "for some time."

China announced this fall that it was halting the programme for a year, apparently because of anger over US condemnations of its June army attack on students protesting for democratic reform. It also cancelled plans to accept US peace corps volunteers.

In other signs of a warming between the two countries since Scowcroft's visit, China has indicated it is open to a negotiated settlement for Fang Lizhi, the Chinese dissident who took refuge in the US embassy, and has said it will allow the US government radio network, the Voice of America, to send a new bureau chief to Beijing.

China expelled the former VOA bureau chief in June, accusing him of distorting facts and violating martial law imposed during the protests.

Reception of VOA Chinese-language broadcasts also has become much clearer in the past week, although it was not clear if the Chinese have halted all jamming. English-language broadcasts had not been jammed.

An official in the international department of the State Education Commission, who did not give his name, said China has not yet decided if it will resume Fulbright exchanges, and refused to say if China wants to change the terms of the programme.

"We are talking about both sides' plans and conceptions," he said. "We originally halted it for a year, 1989 to 1990. Now we are talking about restoring it for 1990-91."

Under the programme, two dozen American scholars lecture at Chinese universities and a dozen Chinese scholars and a dozen students visit the United States for research and studies. China has taken part in the Fulbright programme since shortly after bilateral relations were established in 1979.

The Fulbright also links US scholars to other countries. The United States and China are discussing the release of Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi and his wife, Li Shuxian, to a third country, a published report said yesterday.

The discussions about a possible release of Fang occurred as a result of private talks that former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger held in Beijing last month, the Washington Post said, quoting an anonymous White House official.

Scowcroft followed up on those talks last weekend when he and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger met with officials in Beijing.

Two of China's most outspoken political dissidents arrived in Sydney today, to the sharp criticism of Beijing.

The pair, Wei Kaixi and Wan Runnan, are on a one-week visit to establish an Australian branch of the Front for Democratic China.

## HK offer on way

UK may change stand

LONDON, Dec 18, (Reuter): Britain will announce a controversial nationality package designed to stem Hong Kong's brain drain within the next 48 hours, officials said today.

They were speaking shortly before Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher met key political advisers to discuss an expected backlash against the proposals, both in Hong Kong and from the right wing of her Conservative Party.

"The feeling is to announce the policy as soon as possible," one official said. The announcement is expected to come in a statement to the House of Commons by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

The officials said there were only two opportunities for such a statement before Parliament rises for the Christmas recess on Thursday — tomorrow or, more likely, Wednesday.

The Commons is already scheduled to debate tomorrow the repatriation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong. Political sources said an announcement on Wednesday would cause the least damage for the government, giving the opposition little time to attack the measures and allowing the issue to cool during the three-week recess.

British newspapers have speculated that the nationality package will give the right to live in Britain to between 100,000 and 300,000 Hong Kong Chinese.

## Boat people repatriation

## Halt, Runcie appeals

LONDON, Dec 18, (Agencies): Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Robert Runcie called today for the British government to stop deporting Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong.

"In the short term the forcible repatriation should stop," Runcie, leader of the worldwide Anglican communion, wrote in a letter to Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

"But that will only be done if other rich countries join Britain in seeking a solution to the predicament that comes from Hong Kong's geographical and political position," he added.

The deportation of a fist batch of 51 boat people last Tuesday drew international condemnation from governments, human rights groups and the Pope.

In his letter, sent to Hurd last Thursday but made public today, Runcie appealed for western help to alleviate poverty in Vietnam.

"The western isolation of Vietnam must be ended, so that the poverty that causes this desperate immigration can be tackled. I am happy to see some signs of that," he said.

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## Pan Am bombing trials in US likely

LONDON, Dec 18, (AP): Scotland's attorney-general says criminal trials arising from the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that killed 270 people probably will take place in the United States, an Edinburgh weekly reported yesterday.

"In this matter, on terrorists, I think there can be little doubt that the Americans could assert a jurisdiction," the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Lord Fraser, was quoted as telling the newspaper Scotland.

But a spokesman for Lord Fraser "firmly refuted" a London newspaper report that police have gathered enough evidence to charge several suspects in the bombing of the jumbo jet on Dec 21, 1988.

The Sunday Times of London said that despite cautious public statements, Scottish investigators told a secret five-nation summit of security services that "charges are now possible against certain persons."

It said Scottish police investigators told the summit in Meckenheim, West Germany, that some suspects might have to be tried abroad because of extradition obstacles.

The newspaper did not say when the summit took place, but said it was attended by leaders of security services in Britain, West Germany, the United States, Sweden and Malta.

It did not identify the source of its information.

New York-bound Flight 103 originated in Frankfurt, West Germany, changed planes in London, and was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people aboard and 11 people on the ground were killed.

Lord Fraser on Friday announced the first public inquiry into the bombing, but said criminal proceedings were not imminent.

The Sunday Times said police likely are waiting until their inquiries are completed in three or four months before starting criminal proceedings.

It reported police "have for some time suspected who the killers are, but the painstaking assembly of evidence has been a long task."

Fraser identified Ahmed Jibril's radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command as among groups under investigation.

The Sunday Times said Scottish police are expected to interview Mohammad Abu Talib, a member of the radical Palestinian Popular Struggle Front who is in a Swedish prison awaiting the verdict of a trial for bomb attacks against Israeli and American targets in northern Europe.

## Cop shot dead in Spain

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec 18, (AP): Two suspected members of an obscure terrorist group shot and killed a policeman as he left for work in this northeastern city, then sped away on a motorcycle, police said.

Police said officer Juan Jose Sucino Ibanez was killed as he prepared to drive from home in the working-class neighbourhood of El Prat de Llobregat when a man and a woman smashed the window of his van and opened fire.

He was hit several times and died almost instantly, they said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but police said the shooting was similar to others committed in the past week by the tiny, extreme-left terrorist group Grapo.

Two army officers were seriously wounded in Madrid Dec 13 and in Valencia two days later after gunmen opened fire as they walked to their cars in the two cities.

Grapo, a Spanish acronym for the October First Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Group, first became known and took its name from the date in 1975 when four Madrid police officers were murdered, an action it later claimed.



Gorbachev signs a book of condolence at the Academy of Sciences. (Reuters wirephotos)



Boris Yeltsin pays his respects to Sakharov.



Yelena Bonner lays a carnation by the side of Sakharov as his body lies in state at Moscow's Palace of Youth.

# Sakharov funeral turns to political rally

MOSCOW, Dec 18, (Reuters): Eighty thousand Muscovites, hemmed in by hundreds of troops, packed a sports stadium today for the public funeral of Andrei Sakharov, which soon turned into a rally for the political opposition.

A succession of speakers, from fellow scientists and parliamentarians to friends and former dissidents, paid tribute to the late physicist for his relentless struggle for the cause of human rights and democratic freedom.

"He was a real prophet in the ancient sense of the word, a man who did everything for the sake of a better future," said academician Dmitry Likhachev.

And like all prophets, he was misunderstood and expelled from his own town," he added, referring to Sakharov's internal exile to the closed city of Gorky between 1980 and 1986, imposed by the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

At least 10,000 mourners had accompanied the coffin of Sakharov, who died on Thursday aged 68, from a lying-in-state at the Academy of Sciences to the Luzhniki sports complex.

There, a huge crowd, holding aloft black-ribboned portraits of Sakharov, national

flags of the Soviet republics, banners, placards and lighted candles, waited for three hours in ice, sleet and sleet for the ceremony to begin.

Several carried signs or wore badges depicting the figure "68" crossed out, calling for the removal from the constitution of article six, which guarantees the leading role of the Communist Party in Soviet society.

"You will always remain a living example to us," proclaimed one slogan. "Forgive us, Andrei Dmitriyevich, we should have come out onto the square in 1980," said another.

When a grey bus arrived carrying the coffin and close family and friends, speakers

tried for several minutes to persuade the crowds to move back to clear a space in front of the podium.

But lines of brown-uniformed Interior Ministry troops, arms linked and tucked into each other's belts, prevented people from moving, only giving way after an appeal from radical historian Yuri Afanasyev.

The red-draped coffin was placed on a raised plinth, with Sakharov's portrait at its head. Hundreds of wreaths and bunches of red carnations were passed over the heads and shoulders of the crowd to be laid at the foot of the column.

In his address, Afanasyev said Sakharov embodied the opposition to the "one-party system, the state economic monopoly, the anti-popular state socialism and state imperialism which we have now."

Former dissident priest Gleb Yakunin also praised Sakharov as a martyr to his cause, who had stood firm until death.

He brought us the freedom which has allowed our slave brothers to raise the iron curtain over our countries," he said, referring to the recent tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe.

"Andrei Dmitriyevich started what seemed to be a hopeless cause—the struggle

against totalitarianism—but which is now victorious."

Sakharov's widow, Yelena Bonner, appealed to the crowds to respect the family's wishes for a private burial and not to follow the coffin to the small Vostryakovskoye cemetery on the outskirts of Moscow.

Earlier in the day, Bonner was offered personal condolences by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who went with Politburo colleagues to pay his last respects to Sakharov at the Academy of Sciences.

"We shall all feel his absence, but perestroika will go on," Gorbachev told reporters outside the building.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Airline security improved:** US Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner said yesterday airline security has substantially improved over a year ago when a bomb blew apart a Pan Am flight and he reassured travellers they should not fear terrorist attacks.

"Nothing we have seen indicates people shouldn't fly," he said on television. But he did warn passengers to be wary and to be careful where they pack their baggage.

The State Department last week issued a general warning against possible terrorist attacks against European and American targets after reports were received of movement of Middle Eastern terrorist suspects in Western Europe.

On Dec 21, 1988, the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killed all 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground. An extensive investigation has not found enough evidence to bring charges against anyone for involvement in the explosion. (Reuters)

**New tribunal for complaints:** From Monday members of the public and organisations will be able to complain to a new tribunal about "anything they believe that the British security services have done to them or their property" it was reported.

These words appear in more than 100,000 glossy leaflets distributed by the British Home Office at police stations, libraries, and other outlets, the British media said.

The tribunal is an attempt to give the domestic British secret service (MI5) a "new image", and marks the implementation of the security service act. It puts MI5 on a statutory footing for the first time in its 80-year history.

The Guardian newspaper said that it was prompted by public concern about what MI5 was up to, and in particular by a decision of the European Commission of Human Rights that MI5 had a case to answer in two complaints brought by the UK National Council for Civil Liberties. (Kuna)

**UK women feel discrimination:** The majority of British women still feel discriminated against despite the so-called "sexual revolution," it was reported yesterday.

They have to "over achieve" to be as successful as men at work, but still do most of the household chores, according to a new survey.

The findings show women still have difficulty in challenging the traditional female role, the British media said.

Although a career is considered just as important as the home, most women feel their jobs take second place to their husbands', and for the majority the main aim is to have a family.

The survey did show some changes in attitudes, only half the women questioned said they would stop work to have a baby, and only a quarter would give up work if their husbands earned enough for them to do so. (Kuna)

**Pope urges to protect spiritual values:** Pope John Paul urged Maltese President Vincent Tabone yesterday to give legal protection to spiritual and moral values in the staunchly Roman Catholic island, once at loggerheads with the Vatican over education.

"Today the Catholic faith... continues to inspire and foster in Malta's people a commitment to spiritual and moral values," the Pope said in a speech to the Parliament. The Pope made a 25-minute official visit to the Vatican.

"It is essential that these fundamental human and social values should be safeguarded and furthered through appropriate laws and decisions," added the Pope, who in May will make the first visit by a pontiff to Malta. (Reuters)

**Somali rebels hold Italian ship:** Northern rebel yesterday were holding an Italian ship and its 16-man crew more than a week after seizing the vessel they claimed was delivering fuel to Somali government troops.

A rebel Somali national movement source in Djibouti said the craft and its crew of two Italians and 14 Somalis had been seized without a fight off Somalia's northern coast carrying fuel from Djibouti. Djibouti is a small former French territory just north of Somalia.

The source said the Italian construction company, the Astaldi Consortium, had leased the ship to the Somali government to transport fuel and supplies to government troops battling the rebels. The company denied that. (AP)



Here we go

A little girl peeks at the audience before beginning a Christmas show at a local kindergarten in Beijing. The children, who do not normally celebrate Christmas, put on the performance in honour of visiting foreign guests. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mwinyi visits

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and his wife Siti (left) and Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko stand at attention while their respective national anthems are played during welcoming ceremonies at the Akasaka state guest house. The Tanzanian President is in Tokyo on an official five-day visit. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Soviet Congress meets:** The second Congress of Peoples Deputies of the USSR resumed its meetings yesterday.

The meeting is to stress on the discussion of a bill submitted on Saturday by first deputy president of the Supreme Soviet, Anatoly Lukyanov concerning the elections of republican and local organs of power, as well as the cancelling of the amendment of the social organisations right to a limited number of seats in Congress without being elected.

The Peoples Congress had finished discussing the governments new plan to improve the economic situation in the Soviet Union and referred it to the specialised parliamentary committee to draft these recommendations.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzkov called the Peoples Congress to support the governments plan and said that he would take full responsibility if the plan failed in restoring the economical situation. (Kuna)

**S. Africa police halt march on prison:** Police set up a roadblock Sunday evening to keep 1,000 activists, including Winnie Mandela, from staging a candlelight vigil outside the prison where anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela is held.

The demonstrators, travelling in 10 buses and about 50 cars, were stopped by police about a kilometre (half-mile) from Victor Verster prison.

## 160,000 stage warning strike

BELGRADE, Dec 18, (AP): Some 160,000 workers in the republic of Montenegro staged a half-hour "warning" strike today aimed at pressuring the government to adopt urgent measures designed to reduce inflation.

The strike came hours before a federal Parliament session during which Premier Ante Markovic was to unveil a sweeping market-oriented reform programme to combat inflation, which is currently hovering around 2,000 per cent.

The government has said it will resign if the reform package is rejected by Parliament.

The state Tanjug news agency said the strike in Montenegro, an underdeveloped republic, was "the last warning to the government." It was staged because government policy has "brought a large part of Montenegro's population to the edge of famine and social misery," the news agency reported.

Similar strikes are expected to take place in Serbia, the largest republic, on Wednesday and in the economically poorest region of Macedonia on Thursday.

Montenegro's state-run trade union reportedly issued a proclamation that said a "much longer" strike would take place if Markovic failed to introduce measures to raise living standards.

Markovic's government, which took over last March, has moved fast to introduce economic and social reforms in the face of Yugoslavia's worst-ever economic crisis.

His reform programme has been criticised by conservatives in Yugoslavia's communist leadership, particularly in Serbia and its ally Montenegro, who oppose efforts to restructure the economy and promote greater political pluralism.

The tough reform measures are expected to include a substantial devaluation of the national currency, the dinar, and tight monetary and budgetary controls accompanied by staff wage and price discipline. But government spokesmen have denied rumours of a wage and price freeze.

The reforms reportedly would include the sacking of hundreds of thousands of employees in state enterprises that fail to make money in an attempt to stabilise the economy.

Fearing popular discontent, authorities in Serbia and Montenegro prefer short-term measures, such as price freezes. Such price freezes have previously succeeded in holding down consumer costs, but when the restrictions were lifted, inflation soared to record levels.

## Warsaw Pact loses cohesion

Moscow control declining

LONDON, Dec 18, (UPI): Changes in the commands of the armies of the Warsaw Pact and the ouster of officers with close ties to Moscow have lessened Soviet control over the alliance, a British think-tank said yesterday.

The removal of East German political leader Erich Honecker on Oct 18 was followed by the dismissal of the Minister of National Defence, Col Gen. Heinz Kessler, the last of the senior commanders to fight alongside the Soviet army in World War II, said Jane's Defence, a respected military affairs research center.

The report also said that the events of 1989 highlighted the trend since the mid 1980's of the passing of the generation of Second World War military leaders who had close links with the Soviet Union, often fighting in the Red Army or working with them in the underground resistance movements against the Nazi occupation.

## Breaking with the past Soviets seek European help

BRUSSELS, Dec 18, (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told Belgian officials today the Soviet Union wants to establish close economic ties with Western Europe and switch to a market economy.

Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said after talks with Shevardnadze that the Soviets "want to break with their past."

"He is very aware of the failures of the policies of the previous years," Eyskens told reporters. "They have concluded that the centrally planned economy is no good."

Shevardnadze was in Brussels to sign a new trade and economic co-operation agreement with the 12-nation European Economic Community and to pay an unprecedented visit to the headquarters of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

"I never said integration (of the Soviet economy with the West) would be easy. But we are taking the first step, laying the first stone," Shevardnadze said in reference to the trade agreement negotiated with the EEC trading bloc.

Eyskens said the Soviet Union was interested in receiving help from a new European bank for reconstruction and development. EEC leaders recently agreed to set up the new bank to help emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

"That is clear proof of their interest (in Europe) and co-

operation," Eyskens said. Shevardnadze, who met briefly with reporters after his talks with Eyskens, was asked about Soviet promises to withdraw all troops from Eastern Europe by the start of the next century.

"It is not an easy problem to resolve," he said. "We must find a reciprocal solution. I'm thinking of the US presence."

We must have serious negotiations. We have a mutual interest in stability in Europe."

He also reiterated Moscow's conditions that the reunification of the two Germanys must not take place at the expense of "stability in our continent."

Eyskens said he gave Shevardnadze the EEC's position on German unity. At a recent summit in Strasbourg, France, the EEC leaders gave their strong support to eventual reunification but stressed that other European borders must stay in place to ensure stability.

They said the unity process should take place peacefully and democratically and in the context of the 1975 Helsinki accords that fixed post-World War II borders.

Belgian officials said Shevardnadze, in talks with Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, called for a "new European economic order."

They quoted Shevardnadze as saying the 10-year trade and economic co-operation accord recently reached by the Soviet Union and the European Economic Community is a first step in that direction.

These personal ties of the East European military elite helped the Soviets maintain the cohesion of the Warsaw Pact since it was founded in 1955, the report said.

But their retirements and forced ousters have led to the rise of Warsaw Pact officers without those strong personal ties to their Soviet counterparts. As a result Soviet control has been lessened and the cohesion of the pact diminished.

The report cited as an example two former East German military leaders with close personal ties to Red Army. Heinz Hoffman fled Nazi persecution, spent the late 1930's and the war years in Moscow. He was a veteran of the Spanish civil war and graduated from a Soviet military academy. Hoffman died in 1985 and was replaced by Kessler, described as a Wehrmacht deserter and a Red Army collaborator.

The report described Kessler as the "last in a long line of senior commanders who fought alongside the Red Army during the Second World War."

"Reform in Moscow and the gradual departure of the veteran Soviet-schooled mandarins since the mid 1980s, has now made fundamental change and reform within the Warsaw Pact inevitable," said Richard Wolf who authored the report.

Preferring stability to political orthodoxy, the younger officers will make the Warsaw Pact armies less political and more professional, the report said.

It said the future of East German, which has been called into question by the collapse of the communist government, may hinge on the country's junior officer corps.

"In the resultant power vacuum the younger members of the East German officer corps, unlike their ageing politicized and conservative mentors, could be a crucial element in maintaining stability and the social fabric of the East German state," the study said.

● Normally known as the most restive country in Eastern Europe, Poland has been an island of tranquility this autumn while its previously staid neighbours in East Germany and Czechoslovakia were packing public squares by the hundreds of thousands.

"We Poles—constant rebels, as we were thought of the world over—are the prop of stability in Eastern and Central Europe today," government spokeswoman Malgorzata Nieczabitowska declared at a news conference.

## Two Malaysian generals killed in air crash: passengers rescued as ship sinks

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18, (Agencies): Two Malaysian Army generals were among 16 people killed when an air force helicopter crashed in bad weather on the island of Borneo today, the official Bernama news agency said.

The US-made Nuri helicopter crashed in the Lundu district of Sarawak state, east Malaysia, shortly after take-off from the state capital, Kuching, the agency quoted army officials as saying.

Major-General Mustafa Awang and Brigadier-General Hasbullah, both regional commanders of the Malaysian armed forces in east Malaysia, were among 16 army personnel being flown to a military exercise near the border with the Indonesian state of Kalimantan.

The aircraft lost contact with ground control 14 minutes after take-off.

An air force Nuri helicopter crashed on November 9 in Peninsular Malaysia, kill-

ing all 21 people on board.

In another accident two soldiers, five crew members and an undetermined number of passengers were rescued when the Malaysian-owned MV Tan Leong sank with a cargo including explosives and gas cylinders, a news report said today.

Sarawak police press relations officer Joseph Tawie said the ship capsized at about 9:30 am (0130 GMT) on Saturday after developing engine trouble in bad

weather in the South China Sea, 22 kilometres (13 miles) off Pantar Semera and 570 kilometres (920 miles) southeast of Kuala Lumpur, the national news agency Bernama reported.

He said a passing cargo ship, the MV Sen Lee Hua, picked up the crew and others on board.

The soldiers were taking the explosives to Sebayan when the ship sank, Bernama said.



Shevardnadze is met by Eyskens (right) on his arrival in Brussels. (Reuters wirephoto)

AP 12/19/89



## Soviets forced ML on Poland

WARSAW, Dec 18, (UPI): President Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski said today that martial law was declared in 1981 under pressure from the Kremlin and troops from other East bloc nations were poised to help enforce the emergency measures.

Jaruzelski, who had previously declined to discuss the action against the Solidarity trade union movement, made his comments in an interview for the Solidarity newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* five days after the Solidarity government observed the eighth anniversary of the imposition of martial law.

The rise of Solidarity under Lech Walesa in 1980 presented a direct challenge to the communist government. Martial law was declared on Dec 13, 1981, and Walesa and other union leaders were arrested and jailed for up to two years. Solidarity was banned on Oct 8, 1982, and martial law was abolished in 1983.

### Dramatic

Now Solidarity runs the government following historic elections in June, although communists still hold some key positions.

Jaruzelski said imposing martial law eight years ago "was the most dramatic decision of my life" and he acknowledged mistakes were made.

Police and army forces detained more than 6,000 Solidarity activists on the night of the crackdown was implemented, and Jaruzelski said "the intervention should not have been made on such a mass scale."

The general also revealed the East German Army was ready to help suppress Solidarity, and manoeuvres by all Warsaw Pact armies were planned on Polish soil.

### Protest

"I was against the participation of East German troops knowing what the reaction of Poles would have been," he said, referring to Polish anger towards the Germans during and after World War II, in which millions of Poles died.

Jaruzelski said the former Soviet ambassador to Warsaw frequently visited him in October 1981 and filed a sharp protest against the growing prominence of Solidarity.

He said other East bloc countries also demanded tough measures against Solidarity, but former Hungarian leader Janos Kadar took a lenient position.

During talks between the Polish leadership and former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow, Jaruzelski said the developments in Poland had been described as a danger for the whole "socialist commonwealth."

"Nyet, nyet, nyet," he reported Brezhnev as saying about the Polish reforms.

### Objective

Jaruzelski said it was possible the Soviets would intervene in Poland as they did in 1968 against Czechoslovakia, where the "Prague Spring" reform movement was brutally crushed by Warsaw Pact tanks and troops.

"I am trying to be objective towards me and others but I cannot say that martial law was a mistake," he said. "It was a lesser evil than that which threatened us."

During the interview, Jaruzelski also revealed, "we have (martial law laws) now."

The reference to current martial law plans was taken by observers as a signal to the new Solidarity government that as the communist president he could intervene if political and social developments got out of hand.

### Satisfaction

The revolution sweeping Eastern Europe in recent weeks has been greeted happily by Poles, who have had the satisfaction of seeing their hardline neighbours finally following in their footsteps.

In a few tumultuous weeks, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have all seen the birth of mass civic opposition movements demanding pluralism, abandonment of the leading role of the Communist Party and free elections.

# Romania closes its border after clashes

Ceausescu arrives in Tehran

VIENNA, Dec 18, (AP): Romania sealed its border with Yugoslavia to all but official traffic today after a weekend anti-government demonstration in the west Romanian city of Timisoara that turned violent, reportedly causing some deaths.

A Yugoslav traveller said today he saw at least two people, including a child, who had been killed in the rioting.

The source, who spoke on condition he not be identified, told the Associated Press in Yugoslavia that other travellers reported seeing more dead in the city after security forces intervened to break up the

largest anti-government protests in two years.

In West Germany, Radio Bremen quoted William Totok, an ethnic German author who emigrated from Romania to West Germany, as saying that witnesses told him that scores of people, and perhaps hundreds, were killed.

Several hundred people were said to have been injured, Radio Bremen reported.

There was no independent confirmation of any reports of deaths. Several sources reported yesterday and today they heard gunfire in the streets of Timisoara.

"Police and troops moved in quickly," the Yugoslav source said today after travelling from Romania. He said police, but not troops, were seen firing at the demonstrators.

"I saw two dead, including a child, on the streets," the source said.

Hungarian border officials reported that entry to Romania by Hungarian visitors was severely curtailed today as reports filtered in of a second weekend anti-government demonstration in the Transylvanian city of Arad.

President Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Tehran today on a three-day official visit.

Tehran radio, said Ceausescu was given a red-carpet welcome by his Iranian counterpart Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Romanian state news agency Agerpres, making no mention of any unrest in his country, had earlier reported Ceausescu's departure from Bucharest airport.

### Stayed behind

His wife Elena, the second most powerful person in the country, stayed behind although she usually accompanies her husband on trips abroad.

Ceausescu will finalise agreements reached by the Tehran-Bucharest commission that met in Iran last week.

"The Iran-Romania summit is an expression of the positive course of relations between our countries and people," Ceausescu told a Tehran-based English language daily, the *Tehran Times*.

Officials at Israel's national El Al Airlines reported that Romania announced today that it closed its borders to all foreign tourists.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli tourists will not be allowed to board an El Al plane due to leave for Bucharest at 10:30 pm today following instructions from Bucharest.

Hungarian Premier Miklos Nemeth said in Budapest he had been told Romanian armed forces were put on alert because of demonstrations in Timisoara and other towns.

"I wish to emphasize that this is yet to be confirmed," he said. Nemeth did not name any of the other towns where demonstrations reportedly took place.

Romanian emigres who contacted friends and relatives in Timisoara said anti-government demonstrations also took place in Arad and in Brasov, the site of a major anti-communist rally in 1987.

Zoltan Kiraly, an independent member of Hungary's Parliament, told the Hungarian legislature that tanks were in the streets of Timisoara and that the situation was similar in Arad, 40 miles (40 kilometres) north of Timisoara.

He gave no source for his report, and no further details.

Western diplomats contacted by telephone in Bucharest said today the Romanian capital appeared calm.

They said Bucharest's main international airport, Otopeni, was heavily guarded by security forces and that a plane carrying some 200 western tourists, mainly British and Israeli, was not permitted to land.

In London, the British Foreign Office said a group of 33 people, including 28 schoolchildren and their leaders, were refused entry to Romania. It said they were held for five hours yesterday at immigration control at Bucharest airport yesterday.

"The British embassy is attempting to clarify the situation as it applies to British citizens," a spokesman said.

Budapest radio, quoting unidentified witnesses, said today that Romanian security forces had sealed off Timisoara, the country's fourth largest city with a population of 350,000.



Ceausescu (left) watches a guard of honour with Rafsanjani in Tehran. (Reuter wirephoto)

## GDR debates future

Council of 40 to advise govt

EAST BERLIN, Dec 18, (AP): East German communists and opposition factions resumed talks today on the nation's future over the din of hundreds of reporters who banged on windows and demanded a part in the negotiations.

The forum brought together various political parties, social organisations and fledgling pro-democracy movements into a council of more than 40 that is to advise the interim government until free elections in May.

After two hours of debate, participants declined to allow five more groups, including the official Trade Union Federation, to take part in the talks and granted observer status to four more.

The negotiators agreed to meet each Monday to propose legislation. They also suggested that future discussions be carried live on television and radio.

Hundreds of demonstrators disrupted the first hour of today's session, using bullhorns to shout their demands to be included and banging on windows of the ground-floor conference room of the Lutheran church building where the talks were held.

"Anyone who tries to force his participation in this way is not acting in the interests of democracy," President Manfred Gerlach said as the noise overwhelmed speakers.

The participants proposed a message of solidarity to Communist Premier Hans Modrow and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who meet on Tuesday in Dresden.

They said the summit expresses the will of both nations to improve relations, but cautioned against moves that would damage the sovereignty of either state — a call to leave the reunification issue off the agenda.

Today's meeting came a day after the Communist Party concluded an emergency congress in which it embraced a multiparty system and changed its name to the socialist unity party of Germany-party of democratic socialism.

The long title reflects both a new orientation to democratic principles and an eagerness to divorce itself from the corruption and power abuses that tainted former communist leaders ousted in a pro-democracy movement that began in September.

New Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi and Wolfgang Berger, his chief deputy, opened the talks Dec 7.

### NOBODY

volunteered to head East Germany's disoriented communists when the shattered party looked for a new chief this month, according to its chairman.

Gregor Gysi, a human rights lawyer with no political experience, said his name came up for the once all-powerful post at a crisis party meeting only two or three days before he was elected on Dec 9. (Reuter)

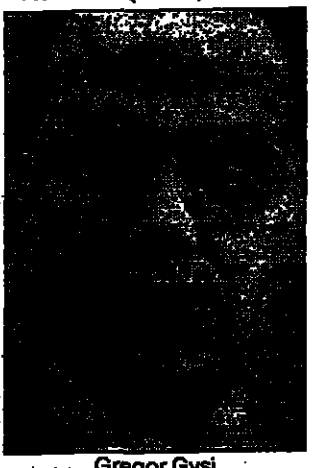
EAST GERMANY will release 25 Western spies in exchange for four of its own held in West Germany later this week, the West German news agency DPA said today.

It said 100 political detainees would also be released from East German prisons. Most of the detainees are held for having attempted to flee the country.

It said the spy swap would take place later this week. The agency said West German secret service employees were among the 25 to be released by East Germany but did not say whether any other nationals were in that number. (UPI)

THE WALL of Stalinit prudence fell today as the first editions of the Western men's magazine Playboy and Penthouse went on sale in an East Berlin hotel.

The glossy girls magazines stood out among a new selection of West German newspapers and weeklies the exclusive Grand Hotel has started importing from West Berlin. (Reuter)



Gregor Gysi

That initial session set May 6 as the date for the first-ever competitive elections for Parliament.

The talks have spurred the communists to consult with their broadening opposition on how

to run the country until elections are held.

In his address yesterday to the Congress' final session, Gysi set out a new course for the party that breaks with four decades of Stalinism.

The nearly 2,700 delegates unanimously approved the draft of a new statute, to serve as the party rulebook until its next regular Congress, as well as the outlines of a new programme.

The communists were stripped of their constitutional mandate to rule during a parliamentary session Dec 1. It reduced their status to that of any other political force, though the premier and much of his cabinet are communists.

When a new Parliament is seated after elections, it in turn will name a new government.

Leaders of East Germany's reform movement summoned citizens to a silent vigil today in honour of victims of Stalinist terror but urged them to stay calm rather than risk a fresh display of right-wing nationalism.

The Communist Party daily in Leipzig printed a joint appeal from Kurt Masur, conductor of the city's famed Gewandhaus orchestra, and Protestant church superintendent Friedrich Magirus to join the regular weekly demonstration.

"With candles in hand, we want to silently remember the victims of violence and spiritual repression under Stalinist tyranny," Magirus wrote.

More than 150,000 people were expected to join the early-evening vigil, the last pro-democracy rally planned before a two-week break over the Christmas holidays.

It was to end with a ringing of church bells throughout Leipzig, East Germany's second-largest city.

West German President Richard von Weizsaecker was greeted by cheering crowds yesterday during a private visit to Potsdam.

About 1,200 people jammed into St Nicholas church, where Weizsaecker was received by top East German officials including Communist Premier Hans Modrow.

"I have waited for years to take part here," the stately, white-haired West German President said. "That I was now allowed to do so makes me very happy. I am very moved."

Weizsaecker travelled from his West Berlin home to Potsdam for a traditional afternoon of advent songs by area choirs.

Africa since 1978. Police have failed to solve any of the murders.

President F.W. de Klerk has rejected the calls for an independent judicial inquiry and said that police themselves will investigate the allegations.

Among those allegedly killed by the hit squads was university lecturer David Webster, who was shot dead outside his Johannesburg home last May by masked gunmen.

Botha was detained under a security law that allowed police to hold him indefinitely without charge.

Meanwhile, police today freed four black activists who staged a three-week hunger strike after they were detained without charge while leading an unauthorised protest.

Obed Bapela, a spokesman for the anti-apartheid Alexandra Civic Organisation, said the four had suspended their fast Friday after police informed them they would soon be freed.

All were leading activists in Alexandra, an impoverished black township wedged among white neighbourhoods of suburban Johannesburg. They were detained while trying to organise a march.



### Support for Havel

Young Czechs showing the V-for-victory sign from the train with Havel's picture and campaign posters stuck on the window. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Prague reds to form a coalition

PRAGUE, Dec 18, (AP): Communist Party chief Karel Urbánek said his party probably will try to form a coalition with other leftist parties before free elections are held next year, an official newspaper reported today.

Meanwhile, Premier Marian Calfa and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier are scheduled to visit Moscow on Wednesday to discuss the eventual withdrawal of Soviet troops and closer economic co-operation, said government spokesman Marcel Jansa.

The Communist Party daily *Rude Pravo* today also printed an extraordinary front-page apology "to all those who were hurt" by its articles in the past.

Previous articles that attacked opposition leader Vaclav Havel, Alexander Dubcek and other proponents of democracy "did not reflect positions of the majority of the paper's editors," said the newspaper's new editor, Zdenek Porubny.

Jansa said the visit by Calfa and Dienstbier was at the invitation of Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov.

A meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Dienstbier also is possible, said ministry spokesman Vlastimil Samek.

The state news agency CTK said Dienstbier would begin negotiations for the possible withdrawal of the estimated 50,000 Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia that remained after the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion that crushed the "Prague Spring" reform movement.

Urbánek was quoted in *Rude Pravo* today as saying that the party must renew itself to survive and be open to a possible coalition.

"It is more than probable already now that the Communist Party should go into the (free) elections in a coalition with other leftist parties which already exist as well as those to be established in the future," Urbánek said.

Officials have said free elections could be held in June or July. They would be the nation's first in 43 years.

Urbánek said a main item on the agenda of an extraordinary party congress set for later this week is "to use the richness of ideas from 1968... while cleansing the party on all levels."

Czechoslovakia's peaceful revolution has forced the resignation of hard-line leaders associated with the crackdown after 1968, and many have been purged from the party.

## Hungarian communists

# Party revived

BUDAPEST, Dec 18, (AP): More than 800 ageing, old-guard communists reaffirmed their loyalty to a hard-line ideology yesterday at a meeting to reorganise the party, which reformers disbanded two months ago.

Communist reformers declared the old party dead on Oct 8 and formed the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party — still exists.

The tone of yesterday's session was set by Gyorgy Marosan, 82, who told the gathering in a voice choked with emotion: "I am glad I don't have to begin by saying 'ladies and gentlemen' because we are all comrades here."

The delegates responded with deafening applause.

The old Communist Party had more than 750,000 members and they have not been allowed to join the new party unless they sign a declaration reflecting support for democratic reforms similar to those taking place in other Eastern European countries.

Marosan urged efforts to avoid "fratricide," referring to the split.


## Japan-Soviet stalemate

TOKYO, Dec 18, (AP): Japanese and Soviet negotiators trying to draft a treaty to formally end their World War II hostilities wound up talks today with "absolutely no new points of contact," a Foreign Ministry official said.


Although both governments have expressed a desire to improve their chilly relations, the Japanese official said neither was willing to compromise on a territorial dispute over several islands in the southern Kurile chain held by the Soviets since the end of the war in 1945.

"There were absolutely no new points of contact," said the official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity. He said the Soviet delegation called Soviet possession of the islands a "postwar reality," and urged Japan to "assume a stance that recognises the results of the war."

Japan, however, renewed its claim to what it calls the "northern territories," a group of small islands off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island.



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## South African court releases former policeman linked to death squad

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 18, (Agencies): A South African court today ordered the release of a white former policeman who was suspected of being connected with a death squad that allegedly murdered anti-apartheid activists.

The Johannesburg Supreme Court ordered that former detective sergeant Calla Botha be freed from detention after his father applied for his release.

The judge ruled there was not enough evidence linking Botha to any organisation involved in assassinating anti-government activists.

"There has been some information exposed on

these organisations but the link between these organisations and the detainee is not strong enough," judge J.C. Krieger said in his judgement.

Botha's release is likely to fuel a public outcry for a judicial inquiry into charges by three former policemen that officially-sanctioned death squads within the police were responsible for murdering scores of anti-apartheid figures in South Africa and abroad over the past decade.

The independent human rights commission in Johannesburg estimated that more than 60 anti-apartheid activists have been killed inside South

Africa since 1978. Police have failed to solve any of the murders.

President F.W. de Klerk has rejected the calls for an independent judicial inquiry and said that police themselves will investigate the allegations.

Among those allegedly killed by the hit squads was university lecturer David Webster, who was shot dead outside his Johannesburg home last May by masked gunmen.

Botha was detained under a security law that allowed police to hold him indefinitely without charge.











## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EATING words has never given me indigestion — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

## Israel losing crucial demographic race

## Arab birth rate high

HAIFA, Israel, (CMS): Like a modern-day Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet who warned the Jews of impending doom, Arnon Soffer has a blunt, unwelcome message for his Israeli countrymen.

The Haifa University geographer says Jews losing a crucial demographic race to Arabs in "greater Israel," which includes the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in Israel itself. Unless Israel gives up control of the territories and makes dramatic efforts to "Judaize" Galilee, in northern Israel, the Jewish state could be imperiled, Professor Soffer warns.

"The demography is going to endanger the future of Israel," says Soffer, whose conclusions have drawn fierce criticism from many Israeli conservatives.

To make his case, Soffer traces the outline of "Eretz (Greater) Israel" on a map of the Levant.

Palestinian Arabs have one of the highest birth rates in the world, he says, citing figures from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. The 75,000 Jews who have settled in the West Bank since 1967 have been matched by the natural growth rate of Arabs in just 30 months. By the year 2000 the Jewish-Arab population ratio in Greater Israel could approach parity, making Israel binational.

## Settlement

"Although the general impression is that settlement achievements were all on the Jewish side... an analysis of various trends throughout Eretz Israel in the past 20 years reveals a very different picture," Soffer wrote recently in the Jerusalem Quarterly. "The Arab population, it turns out, is growing stronger within its area of residence..."

Inside Israel, the figures have equally grave implications, says the controversial academic.

Three years ago Jews became a minority in north, with Arabs constituting up to 80 per cent of the population of western and lower Galilee. In the areas surrounding cities like Nazareth and Shefaram, villages are becoming cities, and cities are merging to become small Arab magalopolises. Meanwhile, housing shortages are prompting Arabs to migrate to Jewish areas, posing the threat of a "creeping annexation" of Jewish strongholds like Haifa.

## Unrest

Israel may be living on borrowed time, Soffer says. Citing Northern Ireland and the Baltic republics as examples of ethnic unrest, Soffer says it will only be a matter of time before separatist tendencies take root among Israeli Arabs who are daily gaining greater demographic clout and political awareness.

"It has already been proven that wherever there is a small minority that becomes a majority in its own area of residence, an aspiration to secede from the central entity also develops," he says.

Some Israelis acknowledge the demographic problem, but insist that Israel must retain the territories as a buffer against a possible future Arab invasion.

According to a poll published last month in the Hebrew daily Haaretz, 52 per cent of Israelis now favour the "transfer" or forced expulsion of Arabs from the territories, if a way to peace is not found. Six months ago only 38 per cent of Israelis favoured transfer. Even if a quarter of a million Arabs were expelled, it would not dent the demographic problem, says Soffer.

Nor will Jewish immigrants arrive on Israel's shores in sufficient number to "Judaize" the territories and Galilee simultaneously.

The right wing's "efforts to Judaize the West Bank are a joke," says Soffer, referring to the 100-odd Jewish communities in the territories. "We need to focus our efforts on Galilee where we can do something."

That means Israel must invest in housing and jobs to make Galilee attractive to the 100,000 Soviet immigrants expected in the next three years. But such a massive diversion of funds would almost certainly be resisted by parliamentarians, most of whom represent influential metropolitan areas.

With two thirds of the Arabs under 20 and thus entering the period of fertility (as compared to 38 per cent for Israeli Jews), Israel will have to face up to giving up the territories, spending more in tendencies there, granting full civil rights to Israeli Arabs, says Soffer.

Failure to do so, he says, will set in motion a dark train of events that will "sound the death knell of the Jewish state": growing extremism, more repressive Israeli measures to contain it, a weakening of Israeli democracy. High defense expenditures retarding economic growth, reduced immigration, and weaker ties with the Jewish Diaspora.

"People don't want to accept the figures," says Soffer. "But unless the problems (of the territories and Galilee) are solved simultaneously, the problem that is now Israel versus the territories will become a problem of Jew versus Arab in all of Israel."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1688 — William of Orange enters London.
- 1793 — Napoleon Bonaparte takes Toulon.
- 1795 — Austria signs armistice with France.
- 1842 — United States recognizes independence of Hawaii.
- 1885 — German dispute with Spain over Caroline Islands in Pacific is settled in favour of Spain.
- 1902 — Germany, Britain and Italy blockade Venezuela.
- 1909 — Civil war starts in Honduras.
- 1915 — British troops begin withdrawal from Sulva and Anzac in Gallipoli in World War I.
- 1941 — German dictator Adolf Hitler faces military setbacks in World War II, dismisses his chief of staff and takes personal command of German Army.
- 1946 — War breaks out in Indo-China as troops under Ho Chi Minh launch widespread attacks against French.
- 1961 — Goa and two other Portuguese enclaves on India's west coast fall to Indian invaders.
- 1962 — Senegal's President Leopold Senghor takes charge of government in Dakar after ouster of the West African nation's premier.
- 1971 — Pakistan's President Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan quits office after military defeat in fighting with India in East Pakistan.
- 1972 — US Apollo 17 spacecraft splashes down on target in Pacific Ocean, windup of US Apollo programme of landing men on Moon.
- 1985 — Gunmen kidnap 12 Christians in Beirut, Lebanon, stepping up campaign of terror.
- 1988 — UN Secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar asks security council approval of 70-member peacekeeping force to monitor withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.



Sri Lankan troops march in the southern town of Koggala during a training session. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Violence continues unabated

## Wijeweera's ghost haunts Lanka

TANGALLE, Sri Lanka, (Reuters): Sri Lanka's most feared rebel chieftain, a bespectacled Soviet-educated Marxist, set out in 1987 on a violent campaign to topple the government.

Rohana Wijeweera was slain last month before he could accomplish his goal, but only after thousands had been killed during the campaign.

Official relief at his death may have been premature. His followers seem determined to take up his legacy.

"The match is over," declared a jubilant Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, announcing the capture and death of the powerful rebel leader last month.

Yet in Wijeweera's birthplace of Tangalle, 190 km (120 miles) south of Colombo, the fighting and destruction are far from over and murders average three a day.

Villagers are reluctant to believe that Wijeweera — who attained something approaching folk-hero status among many fellow Sinhalese in his native town — is dead.

"It's just government propaganda," said one elderly rice farmer.

The government said Wijeweera, 47, the elusive leader of the leftist People's Liberation Front, was killed on Nov 13 in Colombo in a shoot-out between troops and another rebel.

Wijeweera was later shown on state television urging his men to end the violence and surrender. His statement was recorded a few hours before he was killed.

The rebel leader, who once described himself as a "Marxist-Leninist and a professional revolutionary politician," was born in the coastal village of Tangalle.

He studied political economics and Marxist philosophy at Patrice Lumumba University in the

Soviet Union from 1961 to 1964. In the late 1960s, he founded the front that is popularly known by its Sinhalese initials, JVP.

Wijeweera took advantage of a wave of anger at the landing of Indian troops on the island in July 1987 to help end a Tamil separatist rebellion, launching a bloody campaign to overthrow the government based on anti-Indian sentiment.

About 8,000 people have died in his two-year-old campaign. Politicians and their supporters, government officials, security personnel and their families were among the victims.

Wijeratne, who is also foreign minister, said rebel violence had waned since the death of Wijeweera and the capture of other leaders. "It is a matter of time before we wipe out the rest," he said.

This month, however, 100 rebels attacked police in Dickwella, five km (three miles) from Tangalle, retreating only after four of their number were accidentally killed by their own explosives.

"The fight would have gone on for hours," a military source said. "The attackers cut trees and blocked the road to stop reinforcements from a nearby army camp."

Driving to Tangalle, destruction is evident — dozens of felled trees lie by the roadside, many fallen across power and telephone lines.

The rice farmer said there was still much popular support for the JVP. "They're our boys and they're fighting for a better deal," he said.

He said residents stay indoors after dark, fearing not JVP attacks but reprisals by pro-government vigilante squads that have killed dozens of young men to avenge JVP murders.

On Dec 3, the JVP killed a suspected police informant and spiked his head on a post in nearby Kottegoda. Retribution was swift. Four young men

were shot, their bodies spreadeagled across the road the next day.

Tangalle residents said 18 people were killed on the beach recently after rebels burned down a tractor agency partly owned by the government.

"There is no let-up in the violence," said a retired journalist in Kottegoda. He said few people believed the government version of Wijeweera's death.

The government said Wijeweera died in crossfire at a rebel hideout in Colombo. Most people said they suspected the Army killed the JVP leader and concocted the story.

After his death, newspapers reported on Wijeweera's alleged luxurious lifestyle.

He was said to own two plush bungalows in the central hills. "Wijeweera ate turkey and drank champagne," Wijeratne said. "Wijeweera lived a double life, urging his men to live and eat off the jungles while he had a comfortable life."

His wife, who runs a grocery store off the highway, is in hiding, fearing the vigilantes.

His wife still runs the store but refused to talk to visiting reporters. Residents said most people avoid the shop for fear of reprisals.

"It is only those travelling past the town and unaware of the connection who walk into the shop for supplies," one resident said.

Few residents thought Wijeweera's death would halt the violence.

Military officials agreed.

"As long as the government fails to solve longstanding issues among young people, such as equal opportunities in employment and education, the rebels will survive," said one officer who declined to be named.

"A new leader may emerge and take over the reins."

## Letters to the editor

## Au revoir

SIR: Thirty years, or practically half life-span, is certainly a long time; to have lived it in a foreign land and then leaving for one's native shores is more than heartbreaking. We are leaving Kuwait for good tomorrow.

One's adopted country becomes the home away from home, and looking back through the kaleidoscope of the years, the expatriate carries back with him the most precious possession of all — happy memories of yester years.

And so, although "all parting in life is sad," one must come to terms with it, and we must, in all sincerity, express our profound gratitude to the government and people of Kuwait for their hospitality and the opportunity given us to work and earn a decent and honest living here.

I wish to express our sincere thanks to the management and the staff of Messrs. Ahmed Abbas Al Shawaaf and Bros. My wife thanks the management and the staff of Messrs. Behbehani Motors Company, for their kind co-operation extended to her during the tenure of her services with them.

To all who have touched or enriched our lives in even the smallest way we say "MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS"

"Au Revoir Et Bon Chance....."

Mr & Mrs Gabriel Castellino, Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Collor attracts masses, bankers

RIO DE JANEIRO, (Reuters): Conservative populist candidate Fernando Collor de Mello defeated socialist firebrand Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Brazil's presidential election, the first in 29 years.

Collor, an avowed economic conservative who was virtually unknown early this year, won the vote by projecting himself as a man outside the establishment.

His crusade against overpaid government employees took him to the top of opinion polls in April where he remained until the first-round Nov 15 vote.

The 40-year-old black-belt karate expert, raising his clenched fist high, also would say to crowds on the campaign trail: "I'll put the crooks behind bars." His audiences would go wild.

Some political analysts attributed Collor's success to first-rate marketing and the support of Brazil's most powerful businessman, Roberto Marinho, the owner of Globo media empire. But there was more to his success.

"Collor managed to synthesise the electorate's desires for change," the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper said.

The uneducated masses in Brazil adored Collor's virulent attacks on President Jose Sarney whom he blamed for their plight. They did not seem to care that Collor did not attend a single televised debate and that he is a member of Brazil's privileged elite.

He was born on August 12, 1949, into a traditional political family which owns a television station, radio station and newspaper. His father, Arnon Afonso de Mello, was state senator for the small, poor northeastern coastal state of Alagoas where Collor was governor until he started running for president.

In 1963, Afonso de Mello shot a fellow senator to death on the floor of congress. Though usually described as right-of-centre, Collor's ideology remains unclear.

## Quote me

"If they don't want to risk strikes, chaos and international shame, I plead with them not to complicate the situation and not to expose themselves to the danger of being condemned by the public, but to understand the call of this moment. Very soon, we should have someone suitable in the (presidential) castle, preferably before the end of this year." — Vaclav Havel in a speech to the communist deputies in the Czechoslovak parliament.

"I regret that the wing of our church that opposes openness to women also seeks to exclude from ordination the faithful, committed gay and lesbian members of our church who dare to be honest about their sexual orientation." — Bishop John Spang of Newark said in a prepared statement.

"If there is still any group planning to do this, I am warning them — the armed forces will be there to confront them and stop them and crush them." — Philippine Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa vowing to repel any further coup attempt.

"However we may welcome the new marriage between the superpowers, we cannot reconcile to the idea of sending Soviet Jews to Israel as part of the dowry deal." — A Kuwaiti newspaper.

"He was a symbol of courage and wisdom. He was one of the very few who had the courage to oppose totalitarianism. This is a great loss for the Soviet Union and the East European reform process." — Lech Walesa said about Sakharov's death.

"No one has the right to prevent me from feeling like a human being. But what I can tell you is this, should there be any other moment to make the same painful decision, I will do it, because I recognise my duty as a soldier." — Gen. Rodolfo Biazon of the Philippines who played a crucial role in fending off the rebel coup attempt.

"The relationship between the government and myself was legalised. I had to apply for a certain type of passport and pay off my education. I'm just officially living outside the country now, even though I'm still a Czech citizen." — Ivan Lendl.

"I'm pretty sure that in the end I'll be bumped off. I'm just afraid that I won't have the chance to do what I want to do, to explore my own potential." — Briton Ian Davidson, a pro-Palestinian fighter jailed for 20 years for murdering an Israeli.

"It was a clear choice (for Ortega). By giving up on the FMLN for now, he can consolidate his own government's position both internally and against US pressure. He is seeking more and more like the head of an established government than a former insurgent." — A Western diplomat on Central American endorsement of the peace process in the region.

## Sombre Christmas in Bethlehem

## Israeli troops watch from rooftops

BETHLEHEM, West Bank, (Reuters): Christmas will be a sombre event in Jesus Christ's birthplace.

Bethlehem's image as the Christian symbol of peace and goodwill towards men clashes grimly with today's reality of shattered shops and Israeli troops watching from the rooftops.

"Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy," Edward Tabash, a Palestinian Roman Catholic, said in his deserted shop in the heart of Bethlehem. "What joy is there in this?"

The anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth, once the highlight of the year in this tourist-oriented town, will be a sombre event attracting extra Israeli troops, security checks and roadblocks along with the faithful.

Although Bethlehem is tied to the economy of occupied Jerusalem, only five km (three miles) to the north, politically and culturally it lies firmly in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Almost half the population is Christian but with a sense of Palestinian identity as strong as that of the Muslim majority, they are as deeply involved in the two-year-old uprising against Israeli control as other Arabs.

"We used to have meat once or twice a week but now if we go a month without a chicken we don't care," said Mudif Abdeen, a recently married resident with a pregnant wife.

Bethlehem's economic integration with Israel makes its involvement in the revolt against the occupation all the more dramatic.

In the summer, Israeli security forces dressed as tourists shot dead a Palestinian throwing stones at Israeli troops in the town's market where genuine tourists used to wander.

In the autumn, residents in the adjoining community of Beit Sahour refused to pay taxes to the Israelis and were punished with an Army siege, confiscation of belongings and jail terms.

The sense of danger, combined with numerous protest strikes and the daily closure of Palestinian shops after noon by order of the uprising's leaders has crippled the tourist industry that had made Bethlehem prosperous.

"The people come on buses, go to the Church of the Nativity and then get back on the buses," Jack Tabash said in his Bethlehem art gallery shop. "The tourists don't come into the shops."

Visitors stream from tour buses in Manger Square, head straight for the ancient church built above the spot where tradition says Jesus was born 1,989 years ago, then reboard for the ride back to



Two tourists wearing the traditional Arab headscarf visit the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem. (Reuters wirephoto)

occupied Jerusalem.

Israeli Army observation points sprout from rooftops on both sides of the square. Soldiers wander the streets in groups, ammunition clips ready and tear-gas canisters mounted to their US-made M-16 assault rifles.

Restaurants capable of serving 3,000 people a day are usually empty and close their shutters by mid-afternoon. Hotels have few guests and two have closed. The municipal authorities would not demand taxes on their non-existent income.

"All places have suffered," said Hanna Nasser, deputy mayor of the city. "But from the tourist standpoint, Bethlehem suffered the most. Most of the towns in the West Bank didn't know what a tourist was."

Nasser painted a grim picture of dwindling civic finances that could soon lead to a drastic cut in basic services.

In an interview in his office above Manger Square, he said the municipality was collecting only about a quarter of the revenue it spent. The balance, Nasser

said, came from funds allocated for now abandoned projects.

But, despite emphasising the costs and calling for good relations with Israel, Nasser said Palestinians had no alternative to continuing the uprising until the occupation ended.

If Christmas is a time elsewhere for putting aside troubles and conflicts, in Bethlehem the day will only underline them.

"It will be a very sad Christmas," said Nasser. "Our citizens are not prepared for a big celebration, not even in their homes."

As in the first two holidays during the uprising, the town has decided to leave streets and Manger Square bare of their traditional decorations. Last year Israeli authorities decorated the Square's Christmas tree themselves.

The Christmas Eve service from the Church of Nativity is to be broadcast around the world as usual, but each guest will have passed numerous Israeli Army checkpoints to reach it.

JP 12/19/89





Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar (right) chats with PLO representative Ahmed Al Farrar prior to the opening of a seminar on Palestine in Kuala Lumpur. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Rocard meets Palestinians, Peres

# France for Israel-PLO dialogue

TEL AVIV, Dec 18, (Reuters): French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, in a veiled criticism of the Israeli government, today praised Israelis who held peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Inaugurating a street in Jaffa named after the late French Jewish prime minister Pierre Mendès-France, Rocard recalled a secret 1976 meeting between two Israeli leftists and dovish PLO official Issam Sartawi, which Mendès-France arranged.

"These men needed courage to go against the tide but they also needed a mediator. Pierre Mendès-France was that man," Rocard said in a prepared speech.

The French leader, on a 24-hour private visit to Israel, said Mendès-France had dedicated

the last years of his life to trying to persuade Israelis and Palestinians to recognise each other's right to self-determination.

"Peace is not concluded between friends but between enemies who have fought and suffered," he said, quoting Mendès-France's last public statement before his death in 1982.

"That peace has still not been achieved," Rocard said.

Thirteen Palestinian nationalist leaders from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip earlier urged Rocard to help win a greater role for the PLO in Middle East peace talks.

"The Palestinians made it very clear that we expect from France to play a bigger role, especially in Europe, in order to push the peace process forward, and he

promised to do so," said Radwan Abu Ayash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories.

Rocard told Israeli radio France was willing to assist dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians if its help was wanted, "which remains to be proved."

Israeli Vice-Premier Shimon Peres told Rocard yesterday that France could mediate between Arabs and Israelis.

"I think France can be of importance in helping to create... the understandings necessary between the different parties and the necessary ties between the Common Market and the Middle East," Peres told reporters after meeting Rocard.

Meanwhile, the PLO leader Yasser Arafat said today Pales-

tinians were more determined than ever to struggle until they establish their own independent state.

"Our Palestinian people, immersed in the thick of a national liberation struggle, look with greater hope and confidence to all peoples and states of the world to increase their support and backing," Arafat said in a message to the UN Asian regional seminar of Palestine read by the PLO's representative in Malaysia.

Arafat called on the international community to intensify pressure on the United States and Israel to force recognition of the Palestinian state.

Citing a peace initiative issued by the Palestinian council, Arafat said it reaffirmed the wish for the establishment of a just

and lasting peace in the region through the convening of an international peace conference in the Middle East, under UN auspices.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Asia's search for peace constituted a valuable contribution to the achievement of a comprehensive solution.

"And it affirms the fact that the efforts to find a solution to the problem continue to be one of the most important preoccupations of the United Nations," he said in a message also read at the meeting.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar reiterated his country's full support for the convening of an international conference.

## Muslim women have equal rights

### Hassan denies Amnesty allegations

RABAT, Dec 18, (Reuters): Morocco's King Hassan, attacking what he called the intolerance of some Islamic movements, said Muslim men and women had equal rights.

Muslim men and women are like Siamese twins, with the same rights and duties, and nothing in the Holy Quran obliges women to play a secondary role, the king said yesterday in an interview on the French television show L'Heure de Verité.

He said he had personally intervened to ask two Moroccan girls in France not to wear Muslim headscarves in class. The issue has caused a political furore there.

Asked about radical Islamic movements, King Hassan said some Muslims were aggressive, intolerant and 'non-progressive' and disfigured religion.

"I do not feel they are my brothers," he said.

He said fewer and fewer Moroccan women wore veils. They had free access to professions such as medicine, law, banking and commerce.

Answering a viewer's question in a phone-in, King Hassan said he did not recommend marriages between people of different cultural or religious backgrounds. Only one per cent succeeded.

He said Moroccan workers in France should not integrate into the host society or be allowed to vote, as has been proposed. About 600,000 Moroccans live there.

Commenting on allegations by the Amnesty International human rights group that Moroccan men in Morocco have been tortured, he said he doubted if even one per cent of the accusations were true.

Amnesty had been invited to send representatives to Morocco but had not responded, the king said in the programme, which was monitored in Rabat.

Talking about the dramatic changes in eastern Europe, the

## Israel takes 3 scribes to court

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 18, (Agencies): For the first time in the two-year Palestinian uprising, police have charged journalists with entering an area declared closed by the military, police said today.

The charges were brought against three Israeli reporters, Joel Greenberg of the English-language Jerusalem Post, Ori Nir of Haaretz and Ora Cohen of Hadasot.

Shaul Naim, police prosecutor, said the three would not be jailed during legal proceedings but could be sentenced to up to two years in prison if convicted of the charges. He said he was uncertain when the trial would be held.

The charges were presented yesterday before the Jerusalem magistrates' court, Naim said.

During the uprising, soldiers have regularly blocked reporters from entering troubled towns or villages by declaring them closed military areas. While reporters have been detained several times for entering such areas, no charges have been brought.



Patriarchate re-opened

A 16th-century Greek patriarchate building was re-opened on Sunday, 48 years after it was devastated by a fire.

More than 1,500 people, including representatives from 13 eastern Orthodox churches around the world and Greek and Turkish officials, attended a holy mass celebrated by Patriarch Dimitrios in the patriarchal church of St. George.

Dimitrios said he hoped the inauguration would help promote peace between Greece and Turkey, which are at odds over sea and air rights in the Aegean, and over Turkey's occupation of the northern part of Cyprus since 1974. Picture shows Dimitrios flanked by the patriarch Paterius of Alexandria and other clerics.

## Chinese leader in Cairo

CAIRO, Dec 18, (UPI): Chinese President Yang Shangkun arrived today on a four-day official visit at the start of an 11-day tour of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman.

Yang described the trip yesterday as a "goodwill visit" and said it would promote "friendly relations and co-operation between China and the four countries."

Yang also denied he planned to discuss weapons sales in any of the four Arab countries.

Although his post is technically ceremonial, Yang is one of China's senior leaders and is believed to be in day-to-day control of the armed forces.

He is among the leadership hardliners who launched the military assault last June on protesters in Beijing.

The Chinese have sold various kinds of missiles to several Middle East nations, the biggest of which were intermediate range missiles sold to Saudi Arabia.

## No differences with Egypt, says Khalaf

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (AP): A top aide to Yasser Arafat today flatly denied the existence of differences between the PLO and Egypt, the US-led Middle East peace moves.

"There are no differences between the PLO and Egypt," Salah Khalaf, second in command in Arafat's mainstream Fatah organisation, said in an interview.

"We are in complete agreement over the PLO's standing as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Khalaf was responding to a question on reports from Washington that differences between the PLO and Cairo could form a snag in the US-Egyptian-Israeli meeting for which preparations are under way.

According to the Washington report, problems between the Arab countries and the PLO have arisen because of questions as to whether Egypt would be speaking for the PLO.

The meeting, expected next month in Washington, follows an announcement from Washington that Egypt gave its qualified acceptance to the plan by Secretary of State Baker to meet with the Israelis under US auspices to pave the way for a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Israel so far refuses to have PLO representatives or PLO-selected representatives in the Palestinian delegation, while Egypt has been seeking compromise representation formulas, such as the nomination of PLO sympathizers if not outright members. The five-point Baker plan has left the door open for the Egyptians and Israelis to come to terms.

"The PLO will not heed the outcome of next month's meeting of the US Secretary of State and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel if they ignore the PLO's exclusive right to name the Palestinian delegation to the proposed Palestinian-Israeli talks," said Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad.

"The differences exist between us and each of the United States and Israel. There are no differences between us and Egypt," he added.

He said a Palestinian delegation would visit Cairo later this week to stress anew this point before Ezzat Abdel Meguid, the Egyptian foreign minister, leaves for Washington.

Khalaf denied that Egypt had communicated its own reply to the Baker plan. "There is no Egyptian reply to the Baker plan. The Egyptians were under obligation to communicate the PLO's reply as it was handed to Mr Abdel Meguid," he said.

## Abu Nidal restricted To stay in Libya

CAIRO, Dec 18, (UPI): Abu Nidal, reputed international terrorist and Palestinian radical, can remain in Libya but will be barred from launching any operations from Libyan soil, the Egyptian daily newspaper Al-Ahram reported in early editions of today's issue.

The newspaper quoted Abdel Salam Jalloud, chief assistant to Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Khaddafi, as saying the Tripoli government will not allow Abu Nidal to conduct any operations from Libyan territory but will not ask him to leave Libya, since it provides haven to all Palestinians.

Jalloud made his remarks during a four-hour meeting with senior Egyptian editors in Libya's Mediterranean town of Sirte, the newspaper said.

Asked the whereabouts of Abu Nidal, leader of the splinter Fatah Revolutionary Council radical group, and why Libya is supporting him against other Palestinian groupings, Jalloud replied.

"Libya embraces all Palestinians and is not supporting one grouping against another. Libya will not ask Abu Nidal to leave, but it will not allow him to carry out any activity from its territories."

## Casualties up

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 18, (Reuters): Palestinian casualties in a two-year uprising rose sharply in 1989 because the Israeli army opened fire more often to curb unrest, a human rights group said.

"The impression one gets is that there was fairly liberal use of shooting, causing grave injuries, beyond what was required to disperse demonstrations or restore order," the Israeli Betsalel group said in a report released late yesterday.

Greenberg, Nir and Cohen were found by army troops in the West Bank city of Nablus on Nov 15, 1988, after the city of 120,000 had been closed by the army.

The incident occurred on the day that the PLO declared an independent Palestinian state. To prevent trouble, the army put the entire Gaza Strip under curfew and ordered Nablus and several other West Bank towns and villages to be closed areas.

The Jerusalem Post quoted the charges as saying the journalists "stayed for a long time inside Nablus after it was declared a closed area... although they heard at 7 am on the radio that the area was declared closed."

Greenberg claimed at the time that the three were unaware Nablus had been closed when they entered the city.

"We didn't know it was a closed military area because we left early in the morning and they didn't say anything about closure the day before," he said.

The three were detained by soldiers in Al Itihad hospital, and said they had remained there for fear of endangering themselves after the closure order was announced.

## Pope 'plotting' to divide Lebanon

### Jumblatt raps Vatican

BEIRUT, Dec 18, (Agencies): Druze militia leader Walid Jumblatt said in an interview published today that Pope John Paul II was plotting to establish a Christian state in Lebanon and partition the country.

"The stand of the Vatican is clear, it's for dividing the country and establishing a Christian state," Jumblatt said in the interview with the An-Nahar newspaper.

Jumblatt denounced the Pope's recent refusal to receive a ranking Arab delegation. "The Vatican's stance is based on considerations of a Christian-Muslim conflict, which is dangerous to the whole region (the Middle East)."

He said Pope declined last week to meet Arab peace mediators seeking the Vatican's influence over Aoun to end the crisis. "The Pope's refusal dealt a blow to Arab states," he said.

Jumblatt urged Lebanese President Elias Hrawi to move faster to prevent the partition of the embattled country along sectarian lines.

"The country is threatened more than ever. Partition is being consecrated in Lebanon... the fate of the country is at stake," he told An-Nahar.

Jumblatt, head of the Syrian-backed Druze Progressive Socialist Party and minister of

public works in Hrawi's cabinet, complained that the government had not devised a way to resolve the crisis with defiant Christian army General Michel Aoun.

"We must turn the government into a war or emergency cabinet to head off or contain partition..." he said.

Jumblatt, who criticised the Arab League peace plan because it did not provide for an immediate end to Lebanon's confessional political system, said the pact was effectively dead because of Aoun's refusal to support it.

King Hassan of Morocco, current chairman of the Arab League and head of the Arab tripartite committee for peace in Lebanon, said that he will exert all his efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon.

In a special live interview from Rabat, broadcast last night, the monarch said that as long as there is some hope left to avoid bloodshed in that war-torn country, "it is in that part of the world that I will put the major part of my efforts."

Reconciling the Lebanese is "the only way we have to get away from fundamentalism," he noted.

According to him, it is Lebanese themselves who are hindering the implementation of the Taif accord.

## Gulf talks in New York failed: Iran

ATHENS, Dec 18, (Agencies): Iran said yesterday that the UN sponsored talks in New York aimed at ushering in a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq had ended in failure, but that the UN Secretary General had proposed a new round of discussions.

The official Islamic republic news agency said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran yesterday after holding discussions with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

An Iran dispatch monitored in Athens said Iraq had "continued to persist in its illogical stands" in the New York meeting, and that Iraq was hindering the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 598, which calls for a search for a lasting peace.

The two countries reached a ceasefire in August 1988 to end eight years of hostilities in the Gulf war, and began peace talks shortly afterward.

The talks have been deadlocked because of Iran's insistence that Iraqi troops should withdraw from some 800 square miles (2,000 sq km.) of Iranian territory near Naft Shahr in the central sector of the ceasefire line.

Iraq wants an exchange of some 100,000 prisoners of war to go ahead anyway, but the Iranian side said the peace process should stick to the order set out in resolution 598.

## Egypt's strongman Badr believes in fighting fire with fire

CAIRO, Dec 18, (Reuters): Egypt's Interior Minister Zaki Badr, target of a failed assassination attempt on Saturday, is a colourful former police general known for blunt speech and tough tactics in suppressing Muslim fundamentalist opposition.

Large and ruddy-faced, Badr believes in fighting fire with fire and does not mince words in justifying use of violence to combat what he calls terrorists.

"I am an old security man and I speak my mind frankly. It is a grave mistake to deal with these people (fundamentalist dissidents) through dialogue..." He told a newspaper in February.

"My dialogue with those using weapons is through weapons," he said.

## Theologian denies link

CAIRO, Dec 18, (Reuters): The mentor of many Muslim militants, blind theologian Omar Abdel-Rahman, denied today any link with an attempt to kill Egypt's hardline Interior Minister Zaki Badr and said the government fabricated the incident.

"They want to strike back at the Islamic movement so they fabricated this attack in order to arrest thousands more. The prisons are overflowing," Sheikh Abdel-Rahman said.

His security forces have arrested thousands of people since he was appointed interior minister in 1986.

Most detainees have been freed without being charged, but hundreds are still held under emergency powers introduced after

President Anwar Sadat was killed by Islamic militants in 1981.

Only five days before Saturday's botched attempt to blow up Badr's motorcade in Cairo, police fought running street battles with fundamentalist students in the central city of Assiut, a fundamentalist stronghold.

Many Egyptians and foreign diplomats fearful of an upsurge in fundamentalism view Badr as a necessary bludgeon to keep clandestine groups on the run and preserve stability.

Others believe he stands in the way of President Hosni Mubarak's democratic reforms and that his rough methods—such as indiscriminate arrests and alleged beatings of prisoners—only serve to aggravate dissent.

## MIDEAST BRIEFS

**Egyptian hanged**  
KHARTOUM, Dec 18, (Reuters): Sudan said today an Egyptian had been hanged for possessing heroin, the second reported execution under the military Junta which seized power in June.

Said Ahmed Gaballah was executed at dawn yesterday shortly before Sudanese businessman Magdy Mahgoub went to the gallows for illegally possessing foreign currency, the official Sudan news agency said.

**Sudan lifeline**  
KHARTOUM, Dec 18, (AP): A member of the military junta said yesterday a massive international relief operation to southern Sudan, suspended because it had been ferrying "arms and spare parts" to rebels, would be reviewed for a possible resumption.

Col. Mohamed Al Amin Khalifa told reporters a conference attended by the Sudanese government and donor nations would be held next month to discuss the implementation of the second phase of operation lifeline.

**Two killed in clash**  
OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Dec 18, (Reuters): Israeli-backed militiamen shot dead two Lebanese commandos in a clash today in Israel's self-declared security zone in Southern Lebanon, security sources said.

**Cobra 'copters**  
CAIRO, Dec 18, (Reuters): Egypt will open negotiations soon on buying and manufacturing spare parts for US-built Cobra attack helicopters, industrial sources said.

**Arafat in Algiers**  
ALGIERS, Dec 18, (AP): Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, conferred with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid today about Palestine and the Middle East.

**Special thanks**  
OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Dec 18, (AP): Mayor Teddy Kollek gave a special thanks today to visiting Mayor Jerzy Boleslawski of Warsaw, saying he used the Post-World War II reconstruction of the Polish capital as a model for renovating parts of Jerusalem.

**Iranians held**  
MANCHESTER, Dec 18, (AP): Four Iranians, two of them students, are being held by police in Manchester under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, police said today.

**Racial hatred**  
OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Dec 18, (Reuters): Israeli government prosecutors accused anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane of inciting racial hatred on the day after a Palestinian forced an Israeli bus into a ravine, killing 16 Jews.

**Cargo ship seized**  
ROME, Dec 18, (Reuters): Somali guerrillas have seized a ship and its 12-man crew working for an Italian consortium building roads in northern Somalia, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

**Pollution**  
ANKARA, Dec 18, (Reuters): Turkey's police in Ankara forced schools to close today for two days, state-run Turkish Television said.

**No evidence**  
KARLSRUHE, West Germany, Dec 18, (Reuters): Legal authorities said today they had found no evidence to back up suspicions that a West German company supplied equipment to Iraq that could enable it to manufacture nuclear weapons.

**Yemeni ministers**  
MADINA, Dec 18, (Kuna): King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia yesterday received in his office at Taiba palace South Yemeni Minister of Fish Resources Saleem Mohammed Jubran and North Yemeni Minister of Health Mohammed Mokbel. Saudi news agency reported.

**Yemeni delegation**  
DAMASCUS, Dec 18, (Reuters): A Yemeni delegation touring Arab capitals to rally support for the unity of the two Yemens left Damascus today after talks with Syrian leaders.

The transport ministers of North and South Yemen met President Hafiz Al Assad and other Syrian leaders who voiced full support for Yemeni unity, officials said.

**UN initiative**  
ISLAMABAD, Dec 18, (Reuters): Pakistan today welcomed an initiative by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to try to find a political end to the Afghan war.



## EVENTS



## First Arabian Gulf UNIX Conference

THE Minister of Planning, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, inaugurated the First Arabian Gulf UNIX Conference, which started yesterday at one of the local hotels.

The three-day conference is the first of its kind in the region solely to UNIX technology. It serves as the first official inauguration of UNIX in the Arab World and the launching pad for UNIX in the 1990's.

The event focusses on UNIX systems and solutions in the Arab World for the 1990's. It features exhibits from major UNIX software and hardware vendors, UNIX conferences led by speakers from well-known multinational corporations and UNIX tutorials and primers presented by leading experts in the field. It is an event not to be missed by any individual or firm currently involved with UNIX or anyone curious about contemplating using UNIX in the future.

As we enter the 1990's, the UNIX marketplace continues to expand throughout the world as UNIX becomes more of a standard in government and industry. The demand for UNIX in the Arab World is still lagging behind the rest of the world for lack of information and awareness as well as Arabisation solutions. This conference addresses all of these issues. Such an event is much awaited and promises to be a great success.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## KTV-1

## MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran  
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety  
10.00 Cartoon serial  
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.30 Watadour Al Dawaar: Arabic serial (part 4)  
11.30 Sabah Al Kher News  
11.40 Sabah Al Kher Serial, starring Jamal Turki, Waleed Al Sameer, Waleed Barakat, Samira Khouri  
12.30 News Summary  
12.35 Sabah Al Kher News  
12.37 Holy Quran and Closedown
- EVENING PERIOD**  
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
4.45 Breen: Cartoon serial  
5.15 The Agricultural Magazine: Local programme, prepared and presented by Yaqoub Al Yousifi  
5.35 We Are Your Friends: Local programme  
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements  
6.00 Al Bahr La Yabta Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 4)  
7.15 Sports Star: Sports Programme, prepared and presented by

## Mutlaq Nassar

- 7.55 Made in Kuwait: Information programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi  
8.30 Good Evening and local news  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Al Manzel Al Khafi: Arabic serial (part 8)  
10.35 Variety Late Night Show with guest star Ahmad Budair  
11.45 News summary  
11.50 The World Today via Satellite  
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

## KTV-2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran  
6.10 Diplodoc: A cartoon series for children  
6.30 Electronic Office: New improvements are introduced to computers which enable new systems to receive complete sentences instead of individual words.  
7.00 Watch Al Night Eye 5: "Left Luggage": Tess Eving and her friend Max discover the whereabouts of the mysterious Room 13. Meanwhile, Tess' father Dr Buscombe, undergoes interrogation from Col Ferrara, head of the Y Banian Secret Police...  
7.30 Wild, Wild World of

Animals — Badger Country. The "Badger" is a hedgehog like animal that attacks dogs and joins wolves in attacking their prey...  
8.00 News in English  
8.30 You and the Law  
8.40 The Twilight Zone "Joy Ride": Four young men find themselves in trouble with policemen who belong to a different historical

era...  
9.30 Acid Test: A scientific programme on acid rain.  
10.00 A Different World: "Take the Job and Love me."  
10.30 Murphy's Law "Room Above a Grocery": Doubts are raised against a monk who caused the death of a wealthy woman...  
11.30 News in Brief  
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

## CINEMA

Al Andalus Nowhere to Hide  
Salmyah Hall booked  
Al Hamra Main Azaad Hoon  
Drive-in Licence to Kill  
Al Firdous Main Azaad Hoon  
Fahadhel Night wars  
Al Jahra Sarpana Rani

Granada Arabic film  
Salaabikhat Prize of Fighter

Jleeb Ray Lakhi Srikanth  
Ahmadi Drive-in Arabic film

## PRAYERS

Fajr	5.12 am
Zohr	11.45
Asr	2.35 pm
Maghreb	4.53
Isha	6.16

KTV 2, 10.30 Murphy's Law

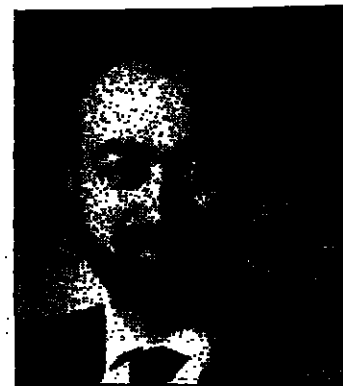
## Abu Lisan brings hope to scholars

KUWAIT'S leading clinical biochemist Dr Mustafa Abu Lisan has become the first Arab Board Member of two prestigious organisations that offer international recognition for exceptional professional achievements and intellectual superiority.

He has been appointed deputy governor of the American Biographical Institute Research Association based in Raleigh, North Carolina and has also joined the International Biographical Centre in Cambridge,

England, as a Deputy Director General.

In both capacities Abu Lisan, director of clinical laboratories in the Amiri health region, will be able to nominate and evaluate candidates for the Who's Who type of publications. Abu Lisan's appointment means that some Arab intellectuals, who have produced exceptional work but operate in relative obscurity in their own countries, now have a better chance of winning worldwide recognition of their achievements.



## IAC drama contest

THE Indian Arts Circle (IAC) will hold their second "One Act Play Competition" in April next year. The competition, which started last year, proved so popular that the IAC decided to make it an annual feature of their cultural calendar.

Last year 12 teams took part in the competition, held under the patronage of the Indian Embassy, Kuwait.

The aim of the competition is to give an opportunity to members of the various Indian community to perform in their vernacular.

The competition is open to all Indians. Dramas in every Indian language and English will be accepted. The duration of the one-act drama should be 40 minutes, maximum, excluding 15 minutes for stage setting and five minutes for stage dismantling.

Winners, like last year, will receive awards for the best play, best actor, best actress, best stage setting, best child actor. An award will also be given to the best performer from each participating team.

The last date for registration, which has begun, is Feb 28. Registration form, with rules, is available from the IAC office in Funaitees. For further details call 3904817 after 6.30 pm.

## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

## Seminar

THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiocal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

## SOCIAL

## Southerners

DEC 22: Southerners invite their members and guests to celebrate X'mas family get-together at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al Mirage Ballroom) to the excellent music by Top Ranks and Mr Leo's Magic Show. Santa Clause will be distributing gifts to all kids and other attractive gifts to prize winners. Fun and entertainment for entire family starting from 10am on December 22, 1989. For passes contact Ligy on 2425705 or 2412444.

## IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaitees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.



## Promoted!

PHILIPPINE Consul General Olivia V. Palala last week received official confirmation of her promotion to the post she took up earlier this year.

Palala, who was promoted on the merit of her performance, had been waiting since June for confirmation of her post from the headquarters in Manila. It came on Dec 13. She took the oath before Ambassador Dr Maunag Mohammad Tamano.

She has been in Kuwait for the last three years and is a popular figure at many Filipino cultural and social events.

## Kapilku meeting

KAPISANANG Pilipino sa Kuwait (Kapilku) will hold an Officer's Meeting on Tuesday, December 19 at Kabayan Restaurant at 7.30 pm. Topics to be discussed include: Miting de Advance on December 22 at Philippine Embassy premises at 1.00 pm. Computer course and awarding of Certificate of Attendance; and Kapilku's Statement of Accounts.

## Sing along contest

FRIDAY 22 to 29 December: Aralya Restaurant is having the last two sing along and duet singing contests of 1989. Lots of gifts, delicious Filipino food with entertainment by Mansour and Elvis Presley. Come in flocks!! For more info: 2402540/2428284.

## Pongal celebrations

BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

## British Council

STORY time and Father Christmas at the British Council, Thursday, 21 Dec., 10.00 am - 12 noon. Come and have lots of fun (Christmas stories, cartoons, games and refreshments) and a word/photograph with Father Christmas. Children of ages 3-7 are invited. Kindly book seats by calling 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227. Please note that only children with tickets (free, but will have to be collected from the Library) will be admitted. P.S. to Parents — Bring your camera.

## Kerala Arts and Literature

Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait), best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries.

Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481. Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

## Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Soumsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaitees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

## Star Nite

DEC 21: Thursday Christmas dinner social at Ramada Al Salam Le Miraj Ballroom from 9 pm with Stepping Stones music. Variety entertainment and prizes galore for lucky 5 5 5 promotion and X'mas Hamper draws with sumptuous buffet at mid-night. Children's programme commences at 6 to 8.30 pm with Fancy Dress Competition.

For reservations please contact Vincent Tel. 2413706, James 5331940 also a Shop No. 34 A.M. Ex-New Super Market Kuwait.

## Sax Aur Awaz

FEB 2: Sax Aur Awaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaitees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

## Konkani Drama

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## Lecture &amp; Video

THE school system in England & Wales

HOW is the British school system currently structured? What is the National Curriculum? Why has GCSE replaced GCE "O" levels? Find out by coming to our lecture and video showing. In the British Council Gallery on Saturday 23rd December from 6.00 - 7.50. Please telephone to reserve your seat.

## Kuwait Cultural Centre

NEW courses at the cultural centre: yogie healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

## Vishal Musical Group

VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funaitees Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

## Goodbye 1989

SUPER Top Ranks present the most fabulous show of the year: Goodbye 1989. The programme includes glamorous dance performances from Hindi, English, Punjabi and Arabic. Popular dance "Ghaza-Neh-Kiya-Ha-Ishara" from Trividey by Valencia Rose Bui Tanaka and Group and the most popular pop band Ajeen will give performances, especially for the Arab audience. The show will be on December 29 from 4 pm onwards. All are welcome at the Doha Entertainment City's Starlight Theatre. Entry to city is free. For more info: Kalid Fawzi on 4879455, Tennakoon on 4319864 and Valencia Rose Bud 5615291.

## Musical evening

"UPANA" one of the leading musical groups is conducting their 6th musical programme on Friday, December 22 at 5.30 pm at Funaitees. The programme contains most of the latest hit songs from Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam. For entry passes please contact Tel. 3987249/3986956/398739-6/5643643/ 5638762/4315374/ 4314018.

## People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

## Cultural function

ON the occasion of Victory Day of Bangladesh, a cultural function will be organised by the Bangladesh Association on Friday, Dec 22, at 6.00 pm at the Sharq Co-operative auditorium. All Bangladeshis are invited to the programme.

## Kuwait Welsh Society

A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721383 or 3713467.

## Christmaside 1989

A series of Holy functions will take place at the Holy Family Cathedral starting Dec 24. On this date, there will be Holy Masses from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm in English and Konkani. Procession and Pontifical High mass will be at 11.00 pm. On Dec 25 the Holy Masses will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm in five different languages. On Dec 31 the Holy Masses will start at 7.00 am to 11 pm in English and Konkani and on New Year's, they will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, again in five different languages. For more information contact 2434637.

## SPORTS

## IAC table tennis

THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

## Discover the world down under

Learn to scuba dive. Classes will be in small groups. Course is for approximately 6 weeks beginning early January. Padi Certification upon completion of Open Water Course. For details visit Discover Scuba Nights at Kuwait International Hotel on 5th and 8th January or call 2530000/8050 (Antony Kingma).

## At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30, beginners-improvers-adults. Mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/ black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6-ton Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm — all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts — coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details — Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.



The pictures show (top) a scene from the one-act play entitled Ektaa, (bottom) Raas Nritya, a folk number.

## Pushpanjali

THE recently formed Indian group, Upkaar, held their first cultural show called Pushpanjali at the Sharq Auditorium on Friday.

The group, formed in May, aims to project the socio-cultural aspects of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Pushpanjali featured such classical dances as Kathak and Kathputhi, performed by Kanika and Namita. Raas Nritya, a group folk dance was done by Palavi and her group.

A ghazal by poet Manzoor Adil was sung by Dr Dharendra Varna; qawallis and other songs were also presented by members of the group.

A one-act play "Ektaa" revolving around the theme of national integration was performed by children on the theme. Performers were Kajri, Nidhi, Sumita, Abhigyan, Milli, Puneet, Akash, Rashi and Batina.

Instrumental music was performed by Geetu, Tulika and Anupam.

The show was opened by Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja. He was received by Upkaar's president G.K. Saxena.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Third World urged to join efforts on ozone layer

CAIRO, Dec 18, (Reuters): Holes in the ozone layer caused mainly by industrialised nations may never be repaired unless developing countries join efforts to stop the damage, delegates at a Cairo conference on the environment said.

Scientists say the ozone layer, which protects the earth's atmosphere from harmful ultraviolet radiation, is being depleted by man-made gases, including CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) used in aerosols, refrigerators and electronics.

After holes in the ozone were detected over the Antarctic, industrialised nations introduced steps to curb and eventually phase out the use of CFCs.

Participants at the conference, organised by the Egyptian government and the UN Environment Programme, warned that this effort would be undermined if developing countries took over technology discarded by the West.

"In 1986, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries used about one kilogramme of CFCs per head," said British Minister of State for the Environment David Trippier.

"If developing countries were to increase their use to just one-tenth of that and continue at that level indefinitely, then we would never return to the levels needed for us to get rid of ozone holes, even if the rest of the world stopped using (CFCs) altogether."

Destruction of the ozone layer raises the earth's temperature, a phenomenon called the "greenhouse effect."

Under an international agreement signed in Montreal in 1987, the use of CFCs is to be cut by 50 per cent by 1998. Many environmentalists are now pushing to have CFCs eliminated altogether by the end of the century.

"If we don't phase out all CFCs and some other chemicals, there is no way the ozone will be rectified and even with that it will only be rectified by 2070," said Mustafa Tolba, executive director of the UN Environment Programme.

Delegates said developing countries, for whom environmental issues were less important than basic economic concerns, were part of the problem.

Cairo, for example, tackled emissions from buses by pointing exhaust pipes vertically rather than horizontally — a move which kept pollution away from pedestrians.

"The historical contribution of the developing world to the problem is trivial, compared to that of the industrialised nations," Suzanne Mubarak, wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, told the conference.

**Jordan, Pakistan sign trade pact**

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18, (Kuna): Jordan and Pakistan signed here today an agreement envisaging close co-operation in the fields of trade, civil defence and science and technology.

The agreement was signed on the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the Pakistani-Jordanian joint ministerial commission in which a five-member Jordanian delegation, led by secretary-general of the Planning Ministry Togan.

Joint ventures in various commercial fields have also been included in the agreement.

Another agreement, calling for balanced trade between the two countries, was also concluded, stipulating expansion of items of two-way trade.

Yet another agreement provides for avoidance of double taxation between the corporate bodies of Pakistan and Jordan.

**French company denies oil strike**

PARIS, Dec 18, (AP): France's Total Compagnie Francaise des Petroles denied reports today that it had discovered good-quality oil in an exploration concession in South Yemen.

A short statement released from Total-CFP's headquarters in Paris said drilling has been under way at the 16,000-square-kilometre (6,000-square-mile) zone in the Hadramut region "without commercial discovery."

Reports from Aden, South Yemen's capital, over the weekend said such a discovery had been made and that exploratory work was continuing.

**KD deposit rates steady**

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Reuters): Kuwaiti deposit rates were steady in subdued trade today as the market wound down for the end of the year.

Rates in all periods up to three months were unchanged at 8-1/2 1/4 per cent. Six months to one year were steady at 9-3/8 1/8.

Deals were reported in overnight at 8-3/8 and tomorrow next at 8-1/4. The Central Bank adjusted the dollar exchange rate to 0.29409/19 to the dollar from 0.29393/9403 on Sunday.

## Opec Fund gives \$1.03b to 24 Asian countries

VIENNA, Dec 18, (Opecna): From its establishment in 1976 to August 1989, the Opec Fund for International Development extended loans worth about \$1.03 billion to 24 developing countries in Asia.

This amount consists of \$986.5 million in loans and 48.3 million in grants covering a large scope of activities, according to a new fund publication called "The Opec Fund in Asia."

Out of this amount, \$797.7 million — or 77 per cent of the total commitments

— have been disbursed, made up of \$43.53 million in project loans, 175.77 million in balance of payments support, 41.99 million in programme financing and 36.4 million in grants.

According to UN definitions, there are 13 least developed (LDC) and 12 most seriously affected (MSA) countries in Asia.

The publication observes that the bulk of the fund's assistance to the region has gone to countries included in these two groups and is valued at \$767.6 million or 78 per cent of total lending

commitments to the Asian region.

By August 1989, the fund had extended 97 project loans totalling \$762.2 million to Asia. Eighty-nine of them were to be financed in 18 countries, with about 56 per cent of the commitments or 424.56 million in the energy sector, 15 per cent (116.68 million) in transportation, nine per cent (70.36 million) in agriculture and agro-industry, with the remainder distributed among industry (35 million), national development banks (21 million), education (27.61 million), health (34.5 million), water

supply and sewerage (29.28 million) and telecommunications (3.14 million).

The countries which have benefited from the project loans are: Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Vietnam, Western Samoa, North Yemen and South Yemen.

A large number of projects have been co-financed with other development finance institutions. Co-financing agreements, the publication says, have

enabled the fund to respond "in good time" to the needs of the recipient countries and ensured the implementation of projects which, otherwise, would have been delayed.

In a forward to the report, Opec Fund director general Dr Seyyid Abdulai says that 42 per cent of the institution's commitments have been made to the Asian region and "we are now active in 21 of its countries."

He states: "Our resources have gone to financing basic infrastructure, agriculture and human resource

development, all of which are considered priority areas not only by the Opec Fund, but also by the countries in the region ... we intend to continue our efforts devoting as much as possible to the lesser developed and more seriously affected countries of the region."

He notes that the fund's mandate directs it to focus its attention more on the continent's much poorer countries whose larger populations suffer unending poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and poor health, not to mention frequent natural calamities.

### Amoco signs oil exploration concession

## Cold weather sends crude prices soaring

LONDON, Dec 18, (Agencies): Bitter cold in North America sent world petroleum prices soaring today.

"It's a pandemonium," said Peter Gignoux, a London-based director with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton, as heating fuel suppliers rushed to cover themselves.

"They didn't build stocks of heating oil," Gignoux said. "There was a mild winter last year and people thought it would happen again."

Crude oil prices were pulled up by gains on heating fuel.

New York January futures for the US benchmark crude oil, West Texas Intermediate, shot up more than 50 cents in early business were not so high, trading around \$21.

Traders said US heating oil demand was leading the world petroleum market. Earlier this month prices were led by Western Europe where a cold snap also created a tight market in heating fuel.

Western oil company executives say there is still plenty of crude oil available and that prices are high now because refineries did not process enough heating fuel before the cold weather struck.

But the industry sources said the market's performance today must, as one put it, be "music in the ears" of the oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

They had difficulties at talks last month in assigning new output quotas that all 13 members of Opec would consent to abide by and they had to settle in the end for an accord that will probably mean Opec output at around 22.5 million barrels per day in the first months of 1990.

Reaction at the time was mixed. Some analysts cited forecasts that demand for Opec oil would probably be at least a million barrels per day in the first months of 1990.

Reaction at the time was mixed. Some analysts cited forecasts that demand for Opec oil would probably be at least a

million barrels below that, and said prices might slump next year so that WTI could go as low as \$18.

Others felt that demand was being underestimated and said that Opec would be unlucky if prices took more than a modest, temporary dip early next year.

Meanwhile Amoco Corp has signed an oil exploration concession covering all of this southern Gulf emirate's offshore areas, officials said today.

The concession with the US company was signed a day earlier by Sheikh Khalid Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Premier of this coastal emirate at the tip of the Arabian peninsula.

According to the agreement, Amoco will conduct a comprehensive seismic survey of the emirate's waters close to the Strait of Hormuz starting as of May.

Amoco will also drill an experimental well if seismic survey yielded fruitful results, according to the terms disclosed

by the officials.

Ras Al Khaimah, which currently produces about 1,000 barrels a day of condensate, is the fourth largest of the seven emirates federated in the United Arab Emirates. Its new concession is seen in oil circles as an attempt to revive its oil production.

The offshore acreage was formerly held by Gulf oil, the US oil company subsequently taken over by Chevron Corp of the US, with peak output in 1984 of 5,000 barrels of condensate. Chevron relinquished the Saleh concession in 1987 when production started to fall off. Exploration on land has yet to yield oil.

The UAE is a member of the international organisation, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, with a current quota of 1.095 million barrels per day. The major oil producer is the capital and leading emirate, Abu Dhabi, followed by Dubai. The two smaller oil producers are Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah.

### Four-nation group awarded

## Yemeni oil search rights

SANAA, Dec 18, (Reuters): Oil exploration rights in a joint border area between North and South Yemen have been awarded to a five-company consortium, North Yemeni Oil Minister Ahmed Ali Al Muhani said today.

He told the North Yemen news agency Saba that the Soviet firm Technoexport, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co (Kuppec), Total of France and the US firms Exxon and Hunt Oil Co had won the contract.

He said exploration work in the area would start in January, 1990.

He was speaking on his return from Aden after two days of talks with South Yemeni Energy Minister Saleh Abubaker Bin Hussainoum.

Muhani said an agreement between the consortium and the Yemen Company for Investment in Oil and Mineral Resources (YCIOMR) had been signed in Aden. He gave no date.

Earlier this month difficulties were reported between YCIOMR and the consortium on terms of the deal, especially over the exploration period, production-sharing split and the financial package.

Oil industry sources said the group later decided to improve its offer.

At least 21 firms had applied for oil exploration rights in the border area, which lies between Marib in the North and Saba in the South.

South Yemen began oil exports in 1987 and now produces around 190,000 barrels per day (BPD).

South Yemen, which struck oil in 1986, is expected to start exporting in early 1990 after the completion of a pipeline to the coast. It now produces around 10,000 bpd for domestic use.

North and South Yemen signed an agreement on Nov 30 for the merger of the two countries.

**Renewed emphasis on conservation**

WASHINGTON, Dec 18, (AP): Six months into its review of federal energy policy, the administration of President George Bush has come to at least one clear conclusion: The Reagan-era theme of "let's keep the oil flowing and keep it cheap" is no longer the policy for the 1990s.

Energy Secretary James D. Watkins says oil inevitably will be the dominant fuel well into the 21st century. He has become convinced, though, that the federal government must do more now to begin curbing the nation's oil costs.

It's not yet clear how the new federal role will be written, but almost certainly it will emphasise the virtues of conservation and alternative energy resources such as solar power.

That alone would be a major change from the eight years of the Reagan administration, which tried to abolish the Energy Department and, failing that, consistently cut its budget for energy conservation. The department's 1989 conservation budget was less than one-third its 1980 level, adjusted for inflation.

There are at least three main reasons for the turnaround under Watkins. The Exxon Valdez oil spill, which turned much of public opinion against the oil industry, longer-range concerns about environmental damage from burning fossil fuels, and fear that the United States is becoming overly reliant on Middle Eastern oil.

The Reagan administration "went too far... in getting rid of many good programmes" in energy, conservation and alternative energy research, Watkins said at a hearing last week in Washington on the link between energy and national security.

The hearing was one in a series that Watkins and his chief deputies have held in cities across the nation this fall. Watkins says he is looking for ideas on how to devise a

"national energy strategy" to last for the next four decades.

What he has heard so far, after public sessions in 11 cities from coast to coast, is that conservation, with a bigger push from the federal government, can help achieve many key energy goals: holding down oil imports, keeping prices steady, limiting the need for new power plants and curbing air pollution.

At the Washington hearing Watkins made it clear he has gotten the message.

If the final energy plan that the administration submits to the Congress a year from now does not put a major emphasis on conservation and renewable energy resources such as solar power, "then this thing is dead on arrival," he said.

Meanwhile, corporate America has come through the merger explosion of the 1980s leaver, tougher and ready to compete again, says J. Boone Pickens Jr., one of the nation's top takeover specialists.

Corporate bureaucracy in the United States "has been building up since World War II," said Pickens, the Texas oilman who mounted a string of spectacular takeover campaigns during the decade. "It got to the point during the '80s that unless corporate America shed its fat and cleaned itself, it wouldn't be around."

His foray into the takeover game was inspired by the conviction — outlined in his autobiography, "Boone" — T. Boone Pickens Jr., — that shareholders were being given short shrift.

"If you are a stockholder, the chances are that one way or another, most corporations are misappropriating your money. It is legal under the system; every day this respectable crime is perpetrated in corporate corridors across the country," Pickens wrote in his book.

Touareg tribesmen from Niger who charge 100 Algerian dinars (\$13) a person, seemed better off than the half-starved refugees from the Sahel states who fled drought in the 1970s along the same route.

But some had trousers torn at the knee and others wore only plastic sandals as they scrambled over boulders, carrying metal food jugs in their hands and tattered bags on their heads.

They pass through the Tassili National Park along trails also travelled by tourists who, to the amazement of the Africans, endure the same hardships just to look at prehistoric rock paintings.

Libya, a major oil producer with a small population, still requires foreign labour

for construction projects and services, such as cleaning and hotel work, even though demand has dropped sharply since the oil boom years of the 1970s and early 1980s.

One Nigerian youth, who asked not to be named, said he had travelled for 11 days by bus and lorry before reaching Djanet, via Kano in northern Nigeria, Agades in Niger and Tamnassart in southern Algeria.

"There is no work in my country. So I must look elsewhere," he said.

Once in Ghat, he planned to take a bus for another 1,400 km (900 miles) to the Libyan city of Benghazi where he had previously worked for seven months.

## Bankruptcy case forces Bunker Hunt to seek job

DALLAS, Dec 18, (Reuters): Nelson Bunker Hunt, who once controlled one of the world's largest individual fortunes, will have to look for a job after losing nearly all his money in a bankruptcy settlement, his lawyer said today.

"He's very glad to be out of bankruptcy, but bitter at what bankruptcy has cost," said lawyer Russel Munsch.

"He is going to have to take employment. It will be a whole different life. It is a bitter day when you have to turn over one of the greatest fortunes in the world," Munsch added.

In a ruling that ended one of the largest personal bankruptcies in US history, a federal bankruptcy judge on Friday approved a reorganisation plan for Hunt, clearing the way for him to emerge from bankruptcy proceedings shortly after January 1.

Hunt and his wife will be left with their home, two ageing cars and personal belongings, but he will have to find work to support their day-to-day expenses.

Hunt, 64, rarely speaks to reporters, but he told Reuters in a brief interview: "I don't believe I'll be doing any rebuilding. I'm too old."

"I'm virtually retired now," he said.

Hunt and his brother, William Herbert Hunt, once controlled a fortune valued at more than \$3 billion, inheriting much of it from famed oil wildcatter H.L. Hunt.

In 1979 and 1980 the Hunts tried to corner the world's silver market, only to see their empire disintegrate when the price of silver collapsed. For the past nine years the Hunts have faced dozens of lawsuits and court cases accusing them of racketeering, land fraud and tax evasion stemming from their failure in the silver market.

Hunt, whose share of the family fortune was once valued at \$1.4 billion, claimed \$222 million remained of his scattered real estate holdings, oil investments, art and coin collections.

Under the settlement, the US internal revenue service, which claimed it was owed more than \$700 million in back taxes, will get 80 per cent of the assets. The IRS also holds claims against any income Hunt makes above \$25,000 a year.

Outstanding contributions

## Gold eases financial markets becalmed

LONDON, Dec 18, (Reuters): Europe's financial markets were becalmed today in the traditional lull before Christmas.

"It's completely dead, nothing has happened all day," said one bond trader at a Japanese institution in London.

The dollar ended little changed and currency dealers said they did not expect much movement until the market picked up, probably after the New Year.

But they warned that the thinness of the market could cause erratic swings.

"The banks have virtually withdrawn from the market and this week we will just see a few customer orders," said one London trader.

"Currency moves this week will be determined by chance more than anything else."

In Frankfurt, one dealer said: "The dollar is oversold versus the mark. We could see some big moves this week if there is a correction against the mark."

But he also said the overall trend was for a continued strengthening of the mark, given stable West German interest rates.

Gold bullion dropped to \$409.50 an ounce in London after finishing on Friday at \$412.

**Businessmen honoured**

THE Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Claus Soenksen, in a small ceremony at his residence yesterday, presented three members of the German business community with the Federal Order of Merit for their outstanding contributions to the strengthening of Kuwaiti-German relations.

The honoured personalities were: Georg Dzierzyn, general manager of Behlbelani Motors, Franz Hintermair, general manager of National German Engineering Electronic Company (NGECCO), a local joint venture of Siemens AG, and Horst Weniger, general manager of Al Rabiah Construction Co.

In a small address the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany emphasised the role the three personalities have played over many years as distinguished representatives of the German business community in Kuwait for the benefit of the cultural as well as commercial ties between Kuwait and the Federal Republic of Germany.

## Call to boycott Air-India

NEW DELHI, Dec 18, (Kuna): Non-Resident Indians in Gulf countries today deplored the government's failure to bring down the Air-India fares on the Gulf-Kerala route at par with the airline's other routes.

K.K. Saratchandra Bose, president of the Gulf-Trivandrum air fare forum, said here today that "most poor people" travelled on the Gulf-Trivandrum route and their income was sliced by the "exorbitant fare" charged by Air-India.

Bose said that Non-Resident Indians were pressing the Dubai based forum to take drastic action including the boycott of Air-India to pressure the Indian government to remove the disparity.

He said 80 per cent of the passengers on the Gulf-Trivandrum sector were Non-Resident Indians, particularly the poor working class people, who had gone abroad to improve their economic conditions. They were also contributing substantially to the foreign exchange pool for India.

## WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Dec 18, (Reuters): The share market finished strongly, boosted by hopes of easier interest rates and a fall in the local dollar. The All Ordinaries index ended up 10.1 at 1,629.2.

TOKYO: A flurry of index-linked buying, mostly by arbitrageurs, lifted the Nikkei share index up 315.14 points to a record traded high of 38,586.18.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong stocks showed no sign of losing upward momentum despite lower turnover as Christmas approaches. The Hang Seng ended 3.64 higher at 2,900.21.

BOMBAY: Share prices overcame a sluggish start and generally rallied on scattered buying by state-owned investment institutions. The exchange index rose 12.70 points to 772.83.

LONDON: Prices remained firm helped by a stronger Wall Street. At 1615 GMT the FTSE index was 16 points up at 2,361.0.

## SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
02	Neptunum	RSMS	2423642
06	Damodar Ganga	Algh Barwil	4842988
19	Stellar Venus	Algh Barwil	4842988
VSL AT ANCHORAGE			
	Castano	Algh Seafright	4745533
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
17/12	BL Charlotte	RSMS	2423642
17/12	West Phalinas	Al Kamal	2425437
17/12	Marek Fiero	Behlbelani	2412085
17/12	Rashidiah	UASC	4843150
19/12	Mosconic	M.A. Bahar	2459891
21/12	Al Batross	RSMS	2423642
22/12	Hanne Mette	Algh Barwil	4842988
22/12	Prabhu Gopal	Algh Barwil	4842988
22/12	Y.S. Prosperity	Rashed	2422026
23/12	Al Watyiah	UASC	4843150
Compiled by: Alghamhar Barwil Shiping Co. WLL. Tel: 4842988/4843988 ext. 3022/3048 Fax: 4845712, TLX 22084 BARWIL.KT.			

Compiled by Algh Barwil Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4842988/4843988 ext. 3828/3848 Fax No. 4845712, TLX 22004 BARWIL.KY.

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- The ability to assimilate new information-investigate trends — take corrective action and plan-control — implement improvements.
- Strong leadership qualities to organise-motivate-train a multi-national workforce whilst maintaining discipline and morale.
- Smart appearance, good character, having communication skills with junior staff-senior management and customers. Total commitment and loyalty to company.
- Age should be around 35 years. A working knowledge of Arabic and the holding of a GCC driving licence will be an asset.

Please apply within 10 days to: The Manager P &



## EEC says no to Turkish membership

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Dec 18, (AP): The European Economic Community's executive body, citing political and economic conditions, said today that Turkey should not be allowed to join the trading bloc in the near future.

"It is impossible to begin immediate (membership) negotiations," with Turkey, said Abel Matutes, the EEC's commissioner for Mediterranean policy.

He added that "the community will not be in a position to opening membership negotiations before 1993 at the earliest."

But the commission recommended that co-operation between the 12-nation trade bloc and Turkey should be strengthened in the next few years to pave the way for eventual membership.

Ankara officially applied to join the community on April 14, 1987.

Under EEC rules, the commission must give its opinion on membership applications, but a final decision is up to the 12 member states' governments and the European parliament.

Austria is the only other country that has made an official membership request. Matutes said the commission reached its decision after an exhaustive survey of Turkey's economic and political situation. He said the commission also looked at the effects of Turkish membership in the context of developments within the EEC, which is working to abolish its internal barriers to the free movement of trade, services, capital and people by the end of 1992 — the so-called single market.

## Currency devalued

WARSAW, Dec 18, (Reuters): Poland's Solidarity-led government, trying to stabilise the country's currency, devalued the zloty by 16.7 per cent today — the 10th substantial devaluation since it took effect in September.

The National Bank set a new rate at 6,000 zlotys to the dollar against 5,000 on Friday, according to figures published in the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita.

The government wants to close the gap between the official exchange rate and free market rate to stabilise the currency and introduce domestic convertibility of the zloty on January 1.

Parliament on Sunday started discussing an austerity reform package which includes new legislation on hard currency.

## Saudi riyal deposits steady

NICOSIA, Dec 18, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposits were generally steady in thin trade today, with new fresh factors to give the market direction.

Dealers said riyal prices in 1989 had helped dampen speculation against the riyal ahead of the kingdom's 1990 budget announcement, due at the end of this month.

Steady dollar rates, often tracked by riyal deposits, was also a factor behind the quiet trade.

## Currency rates

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Kuna) Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2584	0.2609
Sterling	0.4690	0.4740
DM	0.1700	0.1720
S Fr	0.0878	0.0900
Yen	0.002277	0.002304
Jap yen	0.002029	0.002053
Bah din	0.7000	0.7000
LAH Dh	0.07900	0.08038
S riyal	0.07829	0.07871
Q riyal	0.08065	0.08111
O riyal	0.76270	0.76680

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Kuna) Following are the average K.D interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8.5-10	8.9-10
3 months	8.5-10	8.9-10
6 months	8.5-10	8.9-10
1 year	8.5-10	8.9-10

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.490
Sri Lankan rupee	7.450
Pakistan rupee	13.890
Bangladesh taka	9.060
US dollar	24.940
Pound sterling	47.550
UAE dirham	17.170
Deutsche mark	0.02053
Japanese yen	0.02053

## No plan to reduce the Third World aid

# World Bank planning to give more aid to E. Europe

WASHINGTON, Dec 18, (AP): The World Bank, the biggest source of aid to the Third World, is planning new help for East Europe but will not reduce aid already committed to developing countries, Vice President Stanley Fischer said.

Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia already belong to the 152-member bank. Czechoslovakia is trying to join, and the Soviet Union has said it would like to be a member.

"As Poland stabilises, if it does, it's very likely that our lending programme will increase," said Fischer, the bank's top economist. He made the comments yesterday on condition they be made public only Sunday, when the bank's annual two-volume report on Third

World debt was released.

Earlier, President Barber W. Conable said the bank had \$350 million worth of loans prepared for projects in Poland and might lend as much as another \$1 billion in the coming year. Poland currently has no loans from the World Bank.

In the year that ended June 30, Hungary received \$345 million, Yugoslavia \$198 million and China \$1.348 billion. The bank's loans for the year totalled \$21.3 billion.

"At the moment we are not constrained in our lending programmes," Fischer said.

"We're constrained more by the availability of countries which have actually undertaken adjustment

programmes and which would be eligible."

Such programmes are now a requirement for major loans. They call for reduced government subsidies on food and other consumer products, slashed government payrolls and other austerity measures.

Poland's Solidarity-led government on Sunday asked its parliament to adopt austerity measures to combat 900 per cent annual inflation rate and open the economy to market forces.

The programmes were worked out with the International Monetary Fund, which has agreed in exchange to give Poland a \$700-million loan that would open the way to lending from the World Bank and possibly from private banks.

Fischer expressed concern that some Western European countries now giving large amounts of aid to Africa would divert some of it to East Europe.

"As far as the international agencies are concerned, as far as the World Bank is concerned, we don't see how lending to Eastern Europe is going to detract from our lending to Africa and Latin America," he said.

He said the World Bank already is working with Poland on its \$42-billion foreign debt. The first extension of its operations would be in technical assistance, he said, recalling that the bank has experience in helping move communist governments — including China — toward giving more weight to market forces.

The report predicted an increase in Third World debt in 1990 to \$1.319 trillion, up from this year's \$1.29 trillion.

It estimated that developing countries in 1990 will pay out \$51.6 billion in principal and interest beyond what they will be getting in new loans — close to 1989's \$52 billion.

Third World governments complain that this outflow leaves them little to put into schools, roads, farms and other public improvements. Until 1982, they received new loans that amounted to more than they had to pay out. Since then, the flow has gone the other way.

Asked to summarise the 1980s, Fischer noted that Latin America and Africa are being called the "lost

decade" because incomes in Latin America have not grown and in Africa they have declined. He said that debt underlay the problem, compounded by the rise of interest rates, recession in richer countries and the drop in prices for goods that Third World countries have to sell. But he said the present situation is also due in part to the failure of some debtor countries to adjust.

He saw encouragement in the new strategy put forward last March by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady.

"The strategy, incorporating official support for debt and debt service reduction, is not without risks, but the risks and costs of continued inaction would have been higher," he said.

# ABC tries to strengthen Arab presence: Saudi

## Major policy switch

BAHRAIN, Dec 18, (Reuters): The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the Arab world's biggest bank, plans to target Arab rather than international markets for growth in the 1990s in a major policy shift.

ABC president and chief executive Abdullah Saudi said the Bahrain-based bank, which has subsidiaries in Monaco, West Germany, Spain and Hong Kong, planned to put the expertise it had gained in the 1980s to work in Arab markets.

"Our strategy for the coming few years, now that we have gained experience and recognition internationally, is to pass this information on here," he told Reuters in an interview.

"We need to strengthen our presence in the Arab countries and to penetrate local markets," Saudi said ABC, which operates as an offshore banking unit from Bahrain, planned to develop an investment and commercial banking network in the Middle East by setting up new

companies or subsidiaries with domestic licences.

"We want to create a separate investment banking service here for our clients — perhaps one could even look at ABC as a future Merrill Lynch," he said in a reference to the American investment banking giant.

Saudi said the bank was developing the in-house expertise of its investment banking arm, ABC Investment and Services Co (EC), and planned a major drive into private banking.

Negotiations to establish a presence in Jordan were in their final stages following ABC's purchase of a local investment company, he said.

ABC would take a majority stake in the new firm, which would be a joint venture with Jordan's operating bank. It would be able to operate as a commercial bank and was expected to open early in 1990.

"We are studying the different Arab markets to see where to be able to locate ourselves and are starting with the ones who are inviting us to come, like Jordan," Saudi said.

"We are looking at Morocco now and may look later at Egypt and the Gulf," he said, ABC opened representative offices in Tunis and Tripoli this year.

During 1988, 17.2 per cent of the bank's earning assets were located in the Arab world, compared with 47.9 per cent in Europe, 17.1 per cent in Asia, 7.5 per cent in Latin America and 5.9 per cent in North America.

ABC had total assets at the end of 1988 of \$19.13 billion.

Saudi said the bank was negotiating to set up a subsidiary in Europe which would then incorporate its branches in London, Paris and Milan under one umbrella.

But he said plans for the move, aimed at keeping a foothold in Europe after its markets unify in 1992, were not final.

Saudi said ABC shares would

be listed for the first time on stock exchanges in London, Luxembourg and probably Bahrain and Kuwait following a planned \$250-million share flotation in the first quarter of 1990.

He said the money from the flotation, which would increase the bank's paid-in capital by 25 per cent to \$1 billion, would be used to finance expansion worldwide.

The new issue is expected to reduce the stakes of ABC's present shareholders, the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry, the Libyan Treasury and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

Last September, ABC became the first Arab bank to receive an international credit rating for its paper.

Standard and Poor's International assigned the bank's long-term certificates of deposit and senior long-term Eurobonds a rating of single-A-minus, an investment grade rating equal to that of many top US banks.

# Japanese official denies Iraq credit deal

## TOKYO, Dec 18, (Reuters): A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied knowledge of an agreement to grant Iraq a \$3 billion credit line.

Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh told Reuters in Baghdad the deal was made in a protocol on economic, commercial and financial co-operation signed in Tokyo on Saturday.

The spokesman in the Middle East section of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said: "The Japanese government expressed readiness to look into the possibility of granting more credit to Iraq. That's all I know of."

"I don't know why the Iraqi minister referred to a certain amount of credit," he added.

Saleh, who is also acting finance minister, visited Japan from December 12-16 at the head of a delegation including representatives of the Oil Ministry and the Central Bank to discuss Iraqi debts.

He did not give figures for Iraqi debts to Japan, but by Japanese sources at about 10 per cent of Iraq's total foreign debt of about \$50 billion.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Japan has agreed to accept oil to settle all outstanding Iraqi debts.

Saleh did not say how much oil would be involved in the deal, saying only that repayments in oil would be made over the next five years.

Meanwhile, Japanese companies are considering buying large amounts of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar, an oil industry newsletter said today.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Chubu Electric Power Company had indicated it might want about four million tonnes of LNG per year from Qatar for 20 years, starting in the second half of the 1990s.

"The Qatari are hoping to convert that expression of interest into a letter of intent sometime next year," the Cyprus-based newsletter said.

It said Qatar also hoped to sell a million tonnes of LNG a year to each of two other Japanese power supply companies, Tokyo Electric Power and Kansai.

Jaber Al Marri, managing director of Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC), visited Japan last week, it said.

Qatar plans to start producing LNG in a few years time from its offshore North Field, the world's biggest single non-associated gas reservoir with an estimated 380 trillion cubic feet of reserves.

It aims to produce 800 million cubic feet of natural gas from the North Field by 1992, mainly for domestic use.

MEES said the total cost of developing the field, including building LNG plant and export facilities and acquiring LNG tankers, could be \$5 billion.

## Economic plan under review

WARSAW, Poland, Dec 18, (AP): Parliament today took up the first state budget, which cuts off public subsidies for most goods and services and sets the stage for staggering price increases, but an eventual decline in inflation.

The Solidarity-led government yesterday, at the start of a 12-hour Sejm session, proposed a wide-ranging package to transform the economy to a market system.

The deputies in the Sejm, the lower house of parliament, returned to work this morning and had further sessions planned Tuesday and possibly Wednesday.

"Concern voiced in each of over 100 questions asked the government can be boiled down to one question: How will individual citizens, families, social and professional groups and economic units 'survive' the period of changes?" the state PAP news agency said after the first phase of the debate.

After the general session of the Sejm finished last night, a 43-member extraordinary commission of deputies was formed to review the whole package. The commission, chaired by Solidarity Deputy Andrzej Zawislak, wants to speed review of the package in order to meet a Jan 1 deadline set by the government.

## Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 38586.18	Mitsubishi Corp	2000	+30
(+315.14)	Mitsubishi Estate	2700	+20
Volume: 850 mil shs	Mitsubishi H I	1150	-10
Yen exchange rate: 144.22	Mitsui B E	3250	-10
	Mizuho Corp	1980	-20
	Mochida Ph	4100	+70
	Mori Seiki Co	4350	+40
	NEC Corp	1810	-30
	Nippon Shin Co	1510	-10
	Nippon Steel Corp	1770	-20
	Nippon Yusen	825	-4
	Nissan Corp	2450	-10
	Nitaku Corp	1460	0
	Nomura Sec	3690	+10
	Okuma Mach	1830	-10
	Osaka K Co	3440	+10
	Pioneer Elec Co	5650	+10
	Pioneer Elec Co	5840	-110
	Renovon Look Inc	2500	-40
	Sanyo Elec Co	960	-5
	Secom Co., Ltd.	6340	-20
	Shin-Etsu Chem	1780	+10
	Shimadzu Corp	1310	-20
	Sony Corp	8600	-10
	Sunlight Ind	1630	0
	Suntomo Metal Ind	905	-4
	Takada Chemical	2310	-10
	Tokai Ind Inc	5530	-60
	Tokai Marine & Fire	2280	0
	Tokyo Elec Power	6250	+30
	Tokyo Electron Ltd	3360	-20
	Topy Printing	2180	+10
	Toshiba Corp	1250	-20
	Toyota Motor	2620	+10
	Yaskawa Elec	1310	+10
	Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Mideast), Bahrain		

## FOMC to map monetary strategy

# Economists predict lower rates

WASHINGTON, Dec 18, (AP): A variety of business and consumer interest rates should head down over the next six months as the Federal Reserve continues efforts to keep a sluggish economy from toppling into a recession, many economists predict.

These analysts were forecasting that the prime lending rate, to which one-third of all business and consumer loans are tied, and mortgage rates will decline after further credit easing on the part of the Central Bank.

That was the prevalent view as Federal Reserve policymakers gathered today for a meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, the panel of FED board members and regional bank presidents who meet eight times a year to map monetary strategy.

While the meetings are held behind closed doors with the minutes of the sessions not released until six weeks later, many analysts were expecting a clear-cut signal of looser credit to emerge from the discussions, perhaps before the end of the week.

These economists believe the Central Bank will decide to reduce a key interest rate, the federal funds rate, by another 0.25 percentage point, dropping it

from 8.5 per cent to 8.25 per cent.

The federal funds rate is the rate banks charge each other on overnight loans. It is the primary lever the Central Bank uses to control short-term interest rates.

When the next easing move occurs, economists were predicting that banks will quickly follow suit by reducing their prime lending rates to 10 per cent, down from the current 10.5 per cent. Analysts said they expected at least one more cut in the prime lending rate to 9.5 per cent to occur before next summer, in response to further FED easing moves.

Analysts predicted that the credit easing would have a beneficial effect on mortgage rates as well.

David Wyss, an economist with Dri-McGraw Hill predicted that fixed-rate mortgages, currently at a national average of 9.75 per cent, will fall to around 9.25 per cent by next summer.

"Inflation has decelerated enough so that the Central Bank has a margin of comfort to ease interest rates to boost economic growth," said Allen Sinai, chief economist of the Boston Co. That assessment is far different from the view as 1989 began.

## France raises key lending rates

### Move to support value of franc

PARIS, Dec 18, (Reuters): Less than a week after deciding to dismantle its last remaining currency controls, France today moved to stave off a run on the franc by raising two key lending rates.

The Bank of France said its intervention and emergency funding rates would both rise by half a percentage point to 10 per cent and 10.75 per cent respectively, effective at today's government securities repurchase tender.

The Finance Ministry said the increase was aimed at supporting the value of the franc and keeping savings levels high enough to meet credit demand.

"The persistence of domestic savings too low to meet continued strong short-term credit demand leads us to remain vigilant," it said in a statement.

Some economists last week predicted speculative pres-

sure on the franc after Finance Minister Pierre Bergovoy said the franc would free all capital movements on January 1.

Bergovoy said the move showed his government's commitment to European Monetary Union.

Complete freedom of capital movement is one of the pre-conditions laid down by European Commission president Jacques Delors for monetary union. But France had resisted lifting restrictions because of fears that money would flow abroad in search of more profitable investment.

For the first time since the end of the Second World War private French citizens will be allowed to hold foreign currency accounts in domestic banks and open bank accounts abroad.

## Hungarian reform is vital

# Budget aims to cut foreign debt

BUDAPEST, Dec 18, (Reuters): The Hungarian parliament met today to discuss a tough austerity budget amid warnings that the country would go bankrupt and Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth would resign if legislators rejected it.

During the session, due to last three or four days, the 376-member parliament is also expected to dissolve after calling the country's first free elections in more than 40 years, likely to be held next March.

The budget is aimed at slashing Hungary's huge foreign debt and budget deficit, mainly by cutting subsidies and sharply increasing rents, a proposal that has met the most resistance.

Hungary's 10.6 million people shoulder total debt of around \$20 billion, giving the country one of the highest per capita debt in East Europe.

Passage of the budget is vital for the country's future finances. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made parliamentary approval a condition for releasing the last part of a \$350 million standby credit it froze when Hungary overran its budget targets earlier this year.

"Next March we would have to announce our insolvency, (year-on-year) inflation would be 100 per cent and the number of jobless would be over half a million," Nemeth, an economist, has said he would resign as Prime Minister if parliament failed to approve the budget.

"This budget is the only solution for this country," he told Western journalists last week.

Nemeth got a boost today from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who was finishing a three-day visit to Hungary.

Kohl told parliament here the budget would require courage and sacrifice, but added: "The success of the Hungarian reform is vital not only to the future welfare of the country, but also for every reformist country and the whole of Europe."

West Germany has promised Hungary one billion marks (\$580 million) in government-backed credits.

The budget aims at slashing the country's hard-currency current account deficit from the current \$1.4 billion to around \$500 million, partly by throttling back exports to East Europe by 20 per cent.

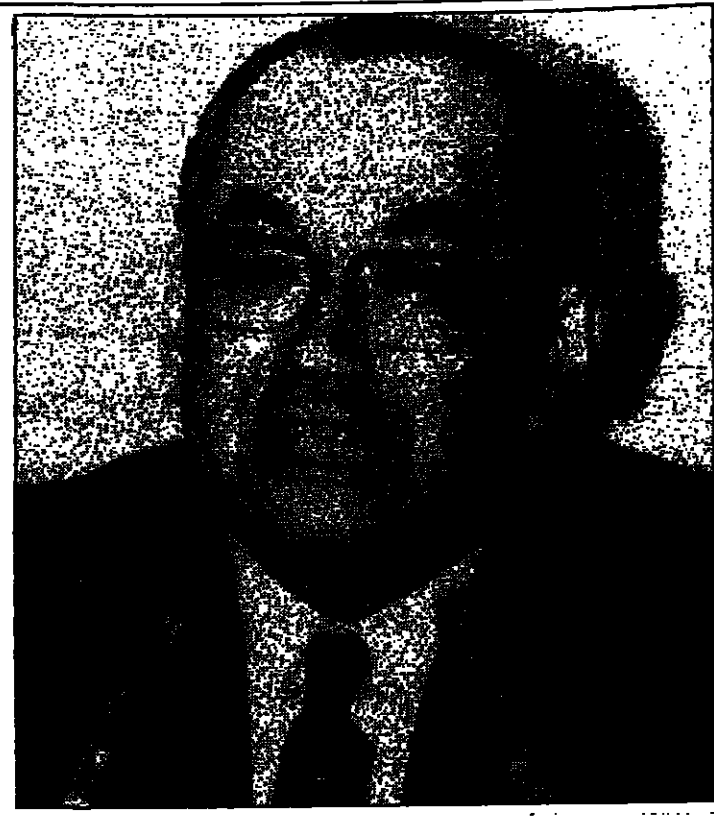
The government is also seeking to reduce the budget deficit from around 49 billion forints (\$800 million) now to 10 billion forints (\$160 million), chiefly by cutting 40 billion forints (\$650 million) from state subsidies.

The government has already admitted the budget is likely to increase inflation from the current 17 per cent to just under 20 per cent, and to raise unemployment from its present level of 20,000 to between 30,000 and 100,000.

The most controversial part of the budget is a proposal to increase rents of state-owned apartments by up to 75 per cent, and to tax housing loans which were previously exempt.

The proposal has been rejected by a number of parliamentary committees and the official trade union organisation Szol, and several deputies were reported to be contemplating resignation rather than put their names to such an unpopular measure.

After the budget is out of the way parliament is expected to announce an election in March and dissolve itself to allow for the statutory 90 days for campaigning.



Newly appointed Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno, the successor to Satoshi Sumita, speaks to reporters during his first news conference as the governor at Bank of Japan yesterday. Mieno said that he prefers a strong yen to help correct trade imbalances. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Policy co-ordination needed

# Call to stabilise currency markets

TOKYO, Dec 18, (AP): The new governor of Japan's Central Bank called for close co-operation among the major industrial nations in correcting international trade imbalances and stabilising currency markets.

Yasushi Mieno, who on Saturday replaced Satoshi Sumita as Governor of the Bank of Japan, largely echoed his predecessor's positions in his first news conference as central bank chief, apparently confirming earlier expectations that the switch would have little impact on Japan's monetary policy.

Mieno said Japan's top priority for international monetary affairs is to conduct monetary policy in co-ordination with other Western and Asian nations to resolve external imbalances among major trading nations.

In a remark that appeared to indicate the central bank was unlikely to act soon again on the interest rate front, he said the Bank of Japan would continue to monitor the effects of its most recent hike in the official discount rate.

To ward off inflation due to a weaker yen in international exchange markets, central bankers on Oct 11 raised the fee they charge for borrowing by commercial banks 0.5 percentage points to 3.75 per cent. It raised the discount rate 0.75 percentage points on May 31.

Mieno refused to specify an exchange level he would consider appropriate for the yen, which has weakened against the US dollar in recent weeks despite repeated interventions by the central bank, which has been selling dollars to stave off the need for a further increase in interest rates.



## Two new shoes for Ashra

By Julie Hodgson

THE birds were chirping gaily in the trees, as Ashra and her mummy went on their way to the souk.

Today, Ashra was going to have a new pair of shoes for school. Her old ones had holes in them. They passed many shops that sold many things, Ashra looked in all the different windows, to see what they sold. There was one that sold ice cream, that was Ashra's favourite shop, next door was a cake shop, with big cakes, small cakes with currents in them, birthday cakes, and lots of bread in different shapes and sizes.

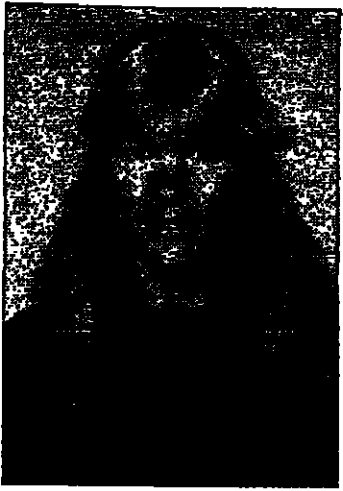
There was a toy shop, a food shop, and rows upon rows of gold shops. Ashra pressed her nose to the window to see all the shiny gold bracelets hanging from metal poles, there were earrings, just like her mummy was wearing, and necklaces with big heavy pendants on them.

As they neared the shoe shop, it started to rain, for the first time in many months, since the hot, dry summer. Ashra stood and looked up, the cool rain splashed on to her face, her mummy was not as eager as Ashra to get wet, so she pulled Ashra in to the shoe shop.

"Good morning Madame, may I help you?" asked the salesman.

"Yes please, my daughter needs new shoes," answered her mummy.

The sales man showed Ashra a box after box of lovely shoes, some were blue, with polka dots, some were black and shiny. She could not choose, there were so many,



she wished she could have them all.

The man was very patient with her, he fetched scores of boxes down from the big shelves, she was about to give up when she saw a lovely red pair, shiny ones with a little rose on the out side of each shoe. Ashra thought these were the best she had seen so far, and asked her mummy if she could have them. Her mummy agreed, as she also liked them.

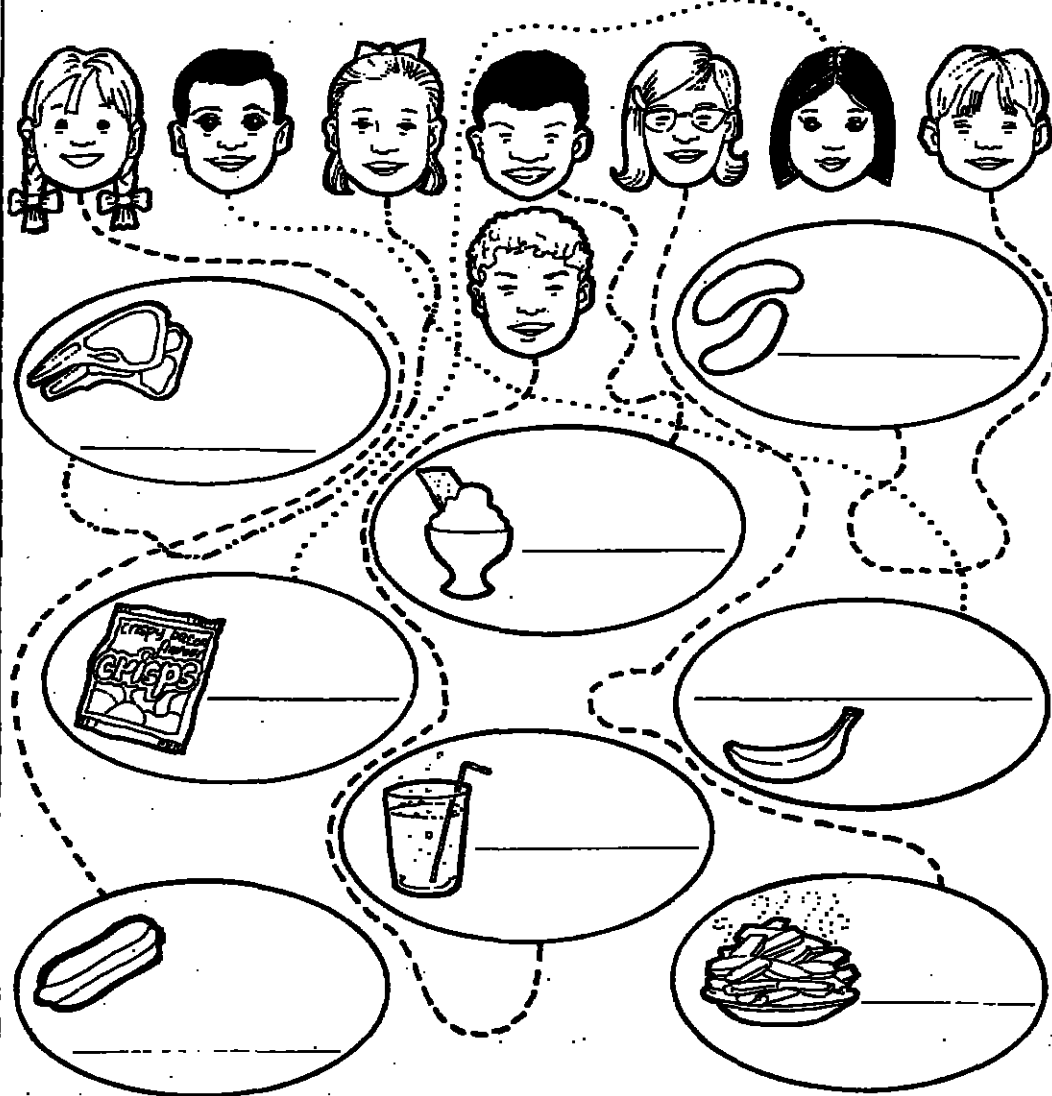
Ashra tried them on, they were too small, so the man got her a bigger pair, they were a perfect fit. Ashra walked around the shop to see how well she could walk in them. She felt like a princess in them, and could not wait to show her best friend Mactob at school.

Her mummy paid the man for the shoes, put the old pair in a plastic bag and set off home.

Ashra kept glancing down at the shoes, and was now glad that it had stopped raining as it would spoil her new red shoes.

## Food and drink

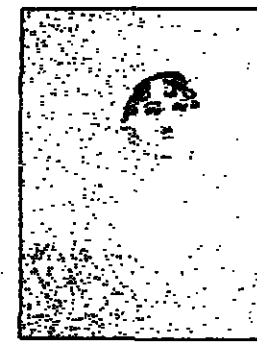
What are they eating and drinking?  
Use a different colour for each child.  
Write the words.



## Unknown women?

Jane Austen (below left) had four novels published during her lifetime all without her name being mentioned. In the 19th century, writing was not considered a woman's profession, and several famous women writers used men's names. Emily Bronte, author of Wuthering

Heights, called herself 'Ellis Bell', and her sister Charlotte (centre left), who wrote Jane Eyre, took the name 'Currer Bell'. 'George Eliot' (centre right) was really Mary Ann Evans, and the French novelist 'George Sand' (right) was really Amandine Lucile Aurore.



## 'Mummy'

This is something to remind you when I have grown so tall  
That once I was quite small  
and my hands were very small.

Sometimes you get discouraged,  
because I am so small,  
and always leave my finger prints  
on furniture and wall.

But everyday I am growing  
and soon I'll be so tall  
That all those little finger prints  
will be precious to recall.



Shereen Mohiuddin,  
(Age 4 years).

## Just for laughs!

'Doctor, doctor! I feel like a parrot.'  
'Just perch there a moment.'

'Doctor, doctor! I feel like a strawberry!'  
'You are in a jam, aren't you?'

'Doctor, doctor! I can't stop telling lies!'  
'I don't believe you.'

Where do cows go on holiday?  
Moo York.

What does a ball do when it stops rolling?  
Looks round.

What dogs has no tail?  
A hotdog.

## Amazing facts

Blackberries are used to make wine, hair-dye, cough medicine, and a refreshing drink.

Roman senators used to wear purple stripes in their togas as a mark of their rank.

Buckingham Palace contains 602 rooms.

In 1831 a boy of nine was hanged in England for arson.

A Hungarian wrote 32 lines of words on a single matchstick.

The mother of US President Ulysses S. Grant was often in Washington during her son's presidency, but never visited him at the White House.

A citizen of Calcutta, India, grew the fingernails on his left to a length of 76 inches.

The smallest independent country in the world is Vatican City — with a zero birth rate.

A Yorkshire woman succeeded in gaining her driving licence at her fortieth attempt.

## Dear Junior readers,

I'm sure you are all looking forward to your upcoming Christmas holidays. Holidays that start after hard work are really enjoyable. Have you decided how you are going to spend your time yet?

Before making rash decisions about sleeping until noon and watching television until dawn, think carefully. Leaving time-pass is never as much fun as spending every moment doing something both enjoyable and worthwhile.

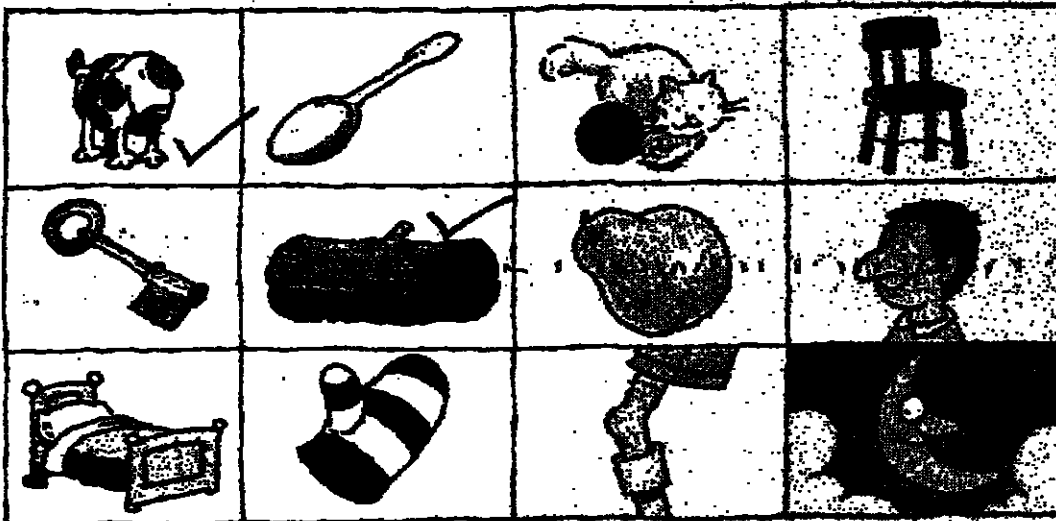
If you enjoy playing sports, you can start a serious practice session with a friend. If you are more creative you can start on a project, may be write a series of stories or draw pictures for a private and miniature exhibition. If you enjoy cooking you can dominate the kitchen and make lovely pies, cakes puddings and savouries.

Whatever you do, do it carefully and loyally, this way you will ensure positive results.

Manal

## Rhyme time

These twelve pictures can be divided into six pairs whose names rhyme. For example, dog rhymes with log. Can you find the other rhyming pairs?



## Spot the difference

Spot the six differences in the bottom picture.



## Word search

### SCHOOL DAZE

ALPHABET	CLIP	GYM	NUMBERS	RECESS
ART	CRAYON	HISTORY	PAPER	SPELLING
BASICS	DESK	INK	PEN	STAIRS
BELL	DRILL	LESSON	PENCIL	STUDENT
BOOK	ENGLISH	LUNCH	PLAY	TEACHER
BUS	ERASER	MAP	PRINCIPAL	TEST
CHAIR	ESSAY	MATH	PRINT	THEME
CHALK	EXAM	MUSIC	PUPIL	WORD
CLASS	GRADE	NOTES	READ	WRITE

A C D E N G L I S H I L J W M  
F H P W E H E P M U S I C R P  
Q A R P A P E R X T D K R I O  
M L G U C L E X A M L E L T N  
P K V P L A P R H S H C S E O  
R E U I A Y R H T C E R Y K T  
I P N L S T I S A N E R H Z E  
N G E C S R N E M B A S I C S  
C D S R I A T S M O E H S B A  
I N K A F L C U G O W T T A G  
P N H Y M E N K E K U O O J Y  
A C C O T S L V P D A E R I M  
L O N N S S E C E R A A Y D T  
P B U S E O Q N N R D R I L L  
B E L L T N T H E M E T G S U

## Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?  
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?  
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!  
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: .....  
Date of birth: .....  
School: .....  
Hobbies: .....  
Telephone: .....  
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:  
**ARAB TIMES**  
Junior Times  
P.O. Box 2270  
13023, Safat,  
Kuwait  
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

## The science gang



Mix and Max and their friends are the science gang. They love finding things out.

You can join in with their finding out games...  
In this book.



## Happy birthday



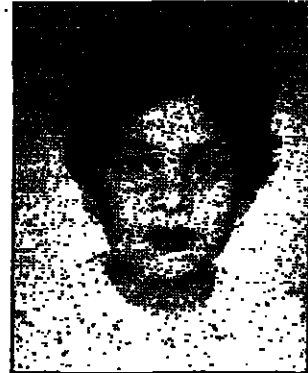
Sheba Sarola turns 5 on Dec 20.



Samantha Almeida turns 9 on Dec 19.



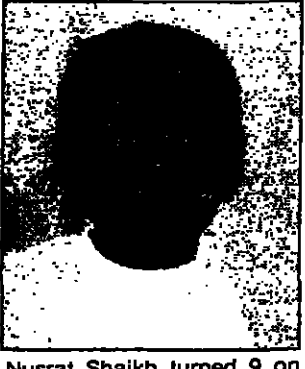
Reynol Pinto turns 6 on Dec 19.



Mehinish Ilyas turned 7 on Dec 14.



Fiona on Dec 13.



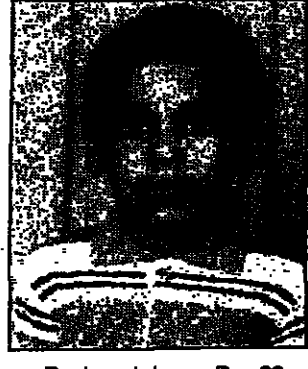
Nurat Shaikh turned 9 on Dec 14.



Melvin Paul on Dec 15.



Darin Philip turned 5 on Dec 10.



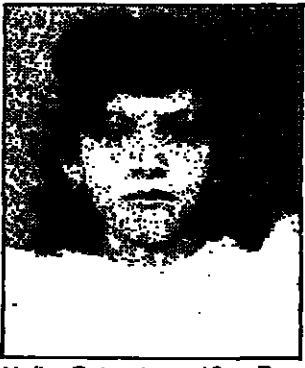
Roshan John on Dec 20.



Saad Bovals turns 9 on Dec 20.



Kendrick Cordeiro turns 7 on Dec 20.



Nafisa Patwa turned 8 on Dec 17.



Neil D' Souza turns 2 on Dec 19.



Rifat Deena turned 10 on Dec 16.



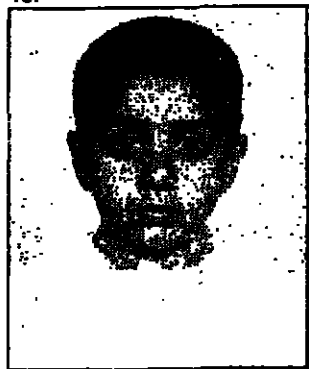
Persis Daver turned 13 on Dec 16.



Abdul Hamid turned 14 on Dec 15.



Stelancia D'Souza turned 3 recently.



Tanveer Zia turned 5 on December 10.



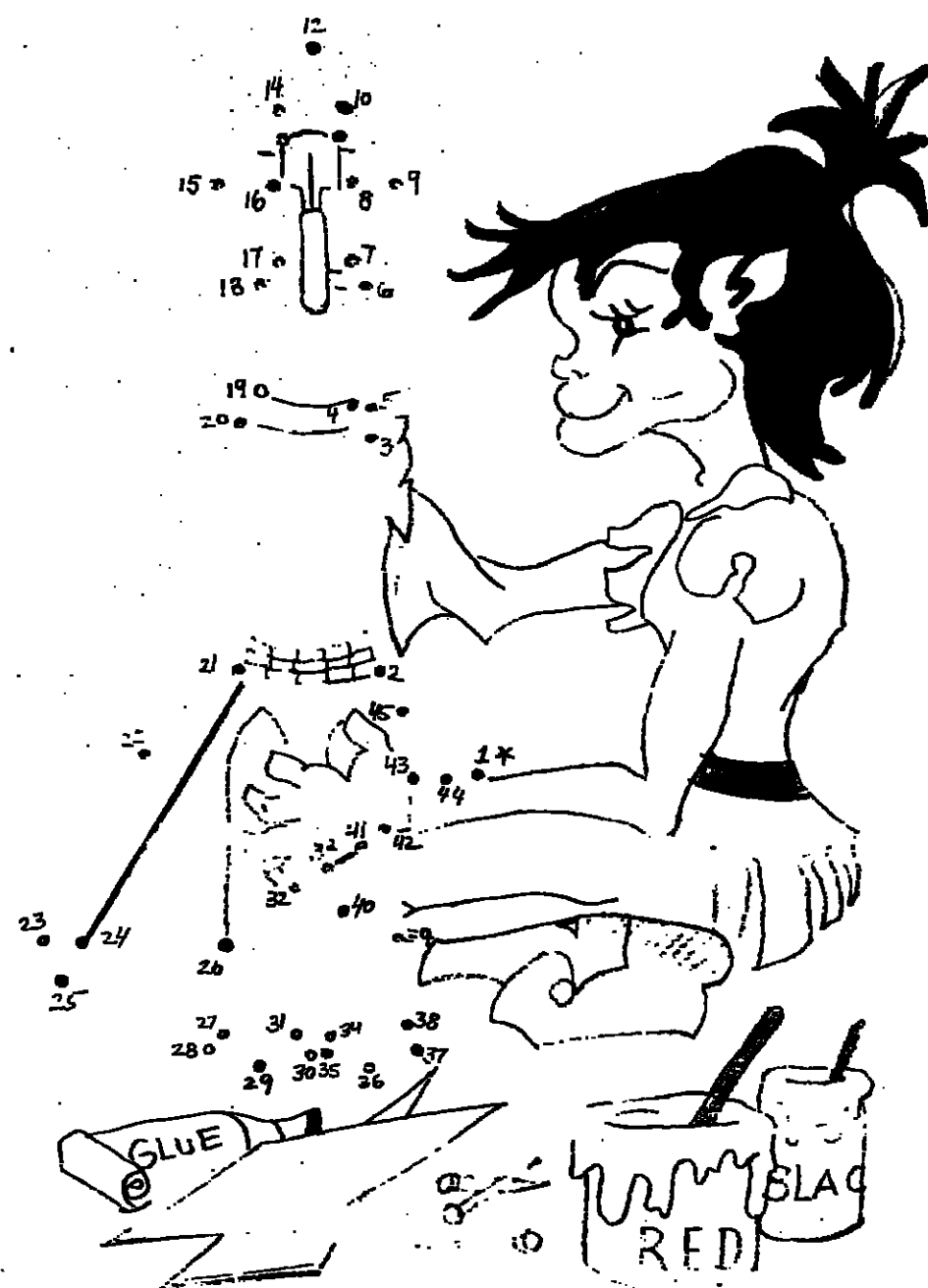
Alefiya Qasbi turns 6 on December 19.



Rohan V. Balwani on December 19.

## Young Artist

## Join the dots



Zahed M. Ali

A present from Mubashir that's  
"Out of this World!"

## Variety

# For Haider, acting is the soul

## It will be a hard trek back home

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

ACTING and eye surgery may not be ideal bed partners but Bangladeshi ophthalmologist Rashid Haider has carved a niche for himself in both careers.

If eye surgery is his vocation, acting is his soul.

Reclining in the dimly lit room of his apartment in Salwa, he talks ruefully about the moment he almost became an actor.

After winning an acting competition, he was offered the lead on a television series. "If I had stayed back, I may have become an actor," he recalls.

He did not, pursuing another dream: the chance to study in the UK. Most Asians see a "foreign degree" as a passport to a better future.

He left East Pakistan in 1968 and returned to Bangladesh five years later. His destiny, in some ways, was shaped by the changing destiny of his country.

His work took him to the UK, Libya, Malta and Kuwait. "When I left the country, I had only one aim: to come back with additional qualification, set up a practice and lead a normal life in my country, but everything changed," he recalls.

The 1971 war put a damper on his spirits. He lost contact with his family for almost a year and had feared the worst. Eventually, when he did manage to make contact, he was told to stay away.

Things had changed. "Everything was destroyed; our house was looted and I didn't have the money to support myself," he said.

He took refuge in the UK and worked for a prominent hospital as a registrar for nine years. He did not take a British passport. "What for? I love my country. I want to go back."

That elusive dream has been haunting him ever since. His story is the theme of many an expatriate who want to return but cannot due to pressures at home. When he did go back he was hit by the hard reality of petty-thinking back home.

He was offered a consultant's job at one of the leading eye private hospitals in Dhaka.

"I held the same status, but other doctors resented my knowledge and created hurdles



Haider the ophthalmologist.



Haider the actor with his wife in Chak Bhangha Madhu.

### Meet a Neighbour

in my work," he recalls. He quit the job and went back to the UK, as he puts it, to make a decent living.

More than four per cent of the population in Bangladesh is blind, with the number of those losing sight increasing at a high rate. Negligence is the main factor, says Haider, who is now working on a handy manual on how to take care of eyes.

"Blindness is due to negligence: most villagers are ignorant and there is a lack of ophthalmological care in the remote areas," he explains.

Haider says if a foreign body in the eye is not removed immediately, it can lodge on the retina, which in nearly all cases, leads to blindness.

"When a farmer is reaping the harvest, invariably something falls into the eyes, which starts watering. He shuts his eyes for two days, and on the third day, he goes about to his work. His negligence leads to an infection, and in one out of five cases, it is inoperable."

His manual, titled "How to treat your eye" deals with the simple do-it-yourself remedies and eye care. He hopes to publish

the book in his native Bengali language.

Haider, who was born in a village near Calcutta, was the product of the turmoil of partition. At an early age, he lost his mother and when he was 12, he lost his father as well. He has faint memories of his childhood, which he spent in India but remembers the warmth and companionship he received from his family.

"Nowadays, all families are growing apart; take my children, they'd rather spend time watching than talking to me," he says, pointing to his three daughters, who were glued to the TV set.

"If there were no television, they would be here with me, talking to me," he said.

A doctor with a penchant for aesthetics, he encourages his children to learn dancing and music. "I don't want them to become professionals, but knowledge of music comes in handy," he explains.

He was himself encouraged to take part in dramatics from an early age. When he was in school, he participated in all the poetry contests and took part in cultural shows. As he grew up, he shifted

to the theatre, performing in several plays.

"I am not out for comedy; I like serious roles," he insists. During his stay overseas, he had almost but given up acting. Kuwait's measured pace of life revived what he now terms as his hobby.

He was one of the founder members of a group of professionals who took to dramatics in Kuwait, forming an amateur group four years ago, and staged a social, a musical and a comic play.

Oppression was the theme of the social drama called "Chak Bhangha Madhu," the story of farmers who are oppressed by the landlord. In the play, Haider played his wife's father. This was followed by a musical entitled Ritu Ranga, appreciated by many Bangladeshis for its music and presentation.

The comic play, revolving around a haunted house, raised many a laugh.

Haider, along with his group staged an ambitious production called Nakshi Kanthar Math (The Field of the Embroidered Quilt), a tragedy set in the villages of Bangladesh.

A musical, with 15 singers and 15 dancers, elaborate sets and background music, it enchanted the audience.

"We wanted to break the barrier of language with his production," he says. It did.

Haider has begun plans to go back home and recently opened a clinic with five other doctors in Dhaka.

"This is the first step; now I have to wait until my daughters finish school to go back," he says. This will take a couple of years longer.

It will be a hard trek back home.

"I feel uprooted; when I return home I find myself a stranger in my own country. I have no friends and have lost touch with my childhood pals," he says.

But he is confident of resetting. "It will take time and we'll make new friends and settle down. My country is my home," he says.

Making friends, and going back to routine, would be not difficult for the soft-spoken doctor. He has done it many times — in Libya, a memory he would rather forget and in Kuwait, a memory he will cherish.

### Year-long arts extravaganza in Glasgow

## Culture queen of Europe

GLASGOW, Scotland, (Reuters): Scotland's biggest city, which a few years ago evoked images of slums, poverty and violence, now stands improbably and excitedly on the brink of becoming cultural capital of Europe for 1990.

At the stroke of the new year—Hogmanay in Scotland—Glasgow will erupt in a mammoth fireworks and laser display to launch a year-long arts and sports extravaganza.

Glasgow beat eight other British cities for the title, devised in 1984 by European Economic Community culture ministers and held previously by Athens, Florence, Amsterdam, West Berlin and Paris.

"What we are set to celebrate is the culture of our city and region, its individuality, its vigour... not just the culture to be seen in a gallery or bought with a theatre ticket, but what's around us in the streets and buildings..." proclaims the brochure produced by Glasgow authorities.

Performers include Moscow's Bolshoi opera, Britain's National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company, and operatic superstars Luciano Pavarotti and Jessy Norman.

There will be exhibitions of Van Gogh, Picasso and Degas. A new 2,500-seat concert hall will be opened. Many events will involve community groups from Glasgow's population of 715,000.

Sports highlights include the European Indoor Athletics Championships and the world highland games.

It is a big event for a town which a decade ago was physically and spiritually derelict, led to the image of violence and religious bigotry amid dilapidated tenements portrayed in the best-selling novel "No Mean City" written in 1935 by Glaswegians Alexander MacArthur and H. Kingsley Long.

The powerhouse on the River Clyde had seen its pre-eminence in world shipbuilding end and its traditional heavy industry decline. Factories closed, unemployment soared, morale crashed.

Introducing the Glasgow Herald "Book of Glasgow," the paper's editor, Arnold Kemp, writes of his arrival in 1981: "I arrived in a demoralised, down-at-heel town that seemed to be perched on the edge of the civilised world with every chance of falling into the abyss."

"On every hand were reminders of lost greatness or an evaporated sense of community."

The 1980s have been a transformation. Kemp describes Glasgow today as "a proud and perky city with ambition."

Local councils, given continuity by the Labour Party holding power for years, have poured money into regeneration.

New service and manufacturing industry has been brought to Glasgow. Clydebank Enterprise Zone, occupying land once devoted to building great ships, houses more than 300 companies.

Some central government departments have been wooed to Glasgow. Office and hotel building is racing ahead.

Much prosperity has returned. Unem-

ployment is falling, though at 17 per cent it is still almost twice the national average.

The city centre has been rejuvenated, pedestrian precincts created, tenements restored and many magnificent 19th century buildings cleaned and refurbished.

The star is the massive city chambers, a breathtaking testament to Victorian extravagance with its clusters of turrets and domes and, they say here, more marble than the Vatican.

The arts, too, have thrived. Glasgow boasts 17 museums, 25 art galleries and nine theatres and the city council spends £20 million (about \$30 million) a year on the arts.

Perhaps the greatest single coup was the opening in 1983 of the Burrell collection, a world-renowned display of arts through the ages collected by William Burrell, a Glasgow shipowner.

The Glasgow 1990 festival will cost some £50 million (\$75 million) to stage, the money coming mainly from the city and regional councils, backed by commercial sponsors.

The organisers hope 10 million visitors may visit the city during the year and stress the festival should have an economic, social and cultural impact beyond 1990.

Jim Waugh, a spokesman for the festivals office, emphasised the role to be played by community arts groups alongside the international stars.

A "people's choir," being created to perform at the Hogmanay launch party, is hoped to be 10,000 strong by later in 1990.

Ceramic artists are working with mentally handicapped people to create an exhibition. Children attending a dental clinic are painting a giant mural.

"We want real participation to get the best possible statement from the communities of what they can do," said Waugh.

He conceded there were critics who disapproved of Glasgow 1990.

"They see it as a sort of cultural colonisation, an imposition."

"But there is great achievement in bringing all this to one city in one year. If anyone thinks it is not a good idea, their thinking is questionable," Waugh said.

Despite increased prosperity and urban renewal, the feeling remains that parts of Glasgow will not be touched by the spirit of 1990.

The bleak housing estates thrown unplanned around the city to meet a desperate post-war housing shortage, are still nests of poverty, unemployment, violence and drug abuse.

The idea of Glasgow, cultural capital of Europe, may ring false in Easterhouse, population 44,000, without even a cinema.

But there is enthusiasm for 1990 at most levels.

"It's really quite exciting," said a taxi driver. "We seem to have been stuck with this 'No Mean City' image for ever. But this is a generous place and, if the 1990 festival brings people to Glasgow, the people of Glasgow will win them over and they'll want to come back."



**ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS**



## Rizzo and Hill take golf title

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Dec 18. (Reuters): Patti Rizzo and Mike Hill teamed for a final-round 66 to split the \$500,000 first-place prize in the Champions Team Golf Tournament by one stroke yesterday.

They teamed up for a 25-under-par total 191 ahead of Tammie Green and Don Bies and Sherri Turner and Charles Coody.

Hill made all the birdies for his team on the final day.

"Mike was just hitting it close to the pin all day," Rizzo said. "I had a few chances on some holes but Mike always seemed to roll it in first."

"I felt that we had to shoot a 64 or 65 today to have a good chance to win," Hill said.

"I also felt that the wind today was probably in our favour because it wasn't going to make things any easier for the rest of the field."

Beth Daniel and Orville Moody finished in fourth place at 193 while two teams tied for fifth at 194 — Jane Goddes and Gene Littler and Pat Bradley and Dave Hill.

## Japan series

TOKYO, Dec 18. (UPI): World champion Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden and Seoul Olympic gold medalist Yoo Nam Kyu of South Korea will lead a field of 11 players to compete in the five-game Japan series of the World All-star Table Tennis Circuit opening Jan 24. The Japan Table Tennis Association reported yesterday.

The series, sponsored by the International Table Tennis Federation, will open in Yonago City on the Japan Sea coast of northern Japan and tour around the country.

## Top athlete

PARIS, Dec 18. (UPI): American cyclist Greg Lemond, comeback winner of the Tour de France and the World Road Cycling Championship this year, has been named 1989 Athlete of the Year by the news agency Agence France Presse.

## W. Germany score 2nd straight Davis Cup win

# Becker shows nerves of steel

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 18. (AP): In an individualistic sport like tennis, Davis Cup competition often does strange tricks on a player's body and mind.

Stars can be afflicted by strange mental freezes and turn into tin men with knees of jelly and nerves as taut as overextended rubber bands when playing for their country.

Not Boris Becker. Showing nerves of steel, the West German blitzed Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander in singles and starred in the doubles as the defending champions retained the Davis Cup with a 3-2 win over Sweden.

"I don't think there could be more pressure than it has been in the last three days," said Becker after playing the best tennis match of his career yesterday.

He could feel the pressure when practising during the week-long training camp, but "from the last four days I put myself out of everything and just kept concentrating on each match," Becker said.

"That's how I could put it away."

The Wimbledon and US Open champion played perfect tennis in a 6-2, 6-0, 6-2 win over Wilander that clinched West Germany's triumph in the best-of-five match series.

"I'm still in a state of shock," Becker said, shaking his head. "It was my best match ever. I was playing for almost two hours and I could not miss the ball."

"The score was 2-1 for Germany so it was a very important match. It's difficult to believe for me that I played like that."

A year ago, Becker led West Germany to a 4-1 win over Sweden on indoor clay at Goteborg, Sweden, for one of the biggest upsets in the 88-year history of the Davis Cup.

"Last year was a dream, because nobody expected us at all to win," said Becker. "This year the chances were 50-50. I knew that if I'm going to do the best I can then we can win it. The feeling now is much stronger for me personally than last year."

But was it stronger than after winning a Grand Slam?

"It's difficult to explain exac-



The West German Team (from left): Patrik Kuennen, Becker, Jelen, Steeb and Pilic. (Reuters wirephoto)

ly," Becker said. "I think everything should stand for itself. When you're on a team the spirit is very important and that's the key to our wins."

"It's more fun to play on a team, when you're together for 10 days. In a Grand Slam, the thrill of the whole thing is also very high."

Becker was awesome in his two

singles against Wilander, a three-time Grand Slam winner last year and ranked No. 1 at the end of 1989 but now No. 12, and against Edberg, the world No. 3 who had beaten him in the Masters final early month.

Becker simply made morgan-bord of his Swedish opponents, losing only 12 games in six sets on a fast indoor carpet.

"It's almost unthinkable," said German captain Niki Pilic, who played Davis Cup for 20 years for Yugoslavia. "I never saw anybody who played that kind of tennis for three days in such an important tie."

In the doubles, Becker and Eric Jelen needed five sets to beat Anders Jarryd and Jan Gunnarsson.



Pilic (right) shows his delight to Becker after he won his match. (Reuters wirephoto)



Becker joins in the applause after collecting the trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Kay and Eagles rout opponents

THE fall 1989 KISL season came to an end with a bang Friday as tough Kay and Eagles, playing at full strength, swept a double-header from the FHWA Falcons, 21-6, and from the previously invincible Eagles, 14-6. In the day's final game, the Eagles drubbed the All-Japan Bazzookas, 29-13. The game between Kuwait University and the UAS teachers was cancelled. On a very windy day, a total of 48 walks were issued.

In the early game, Kay led the visiting Falcons by only 7-6 in the top of the fifth inning, before scoring 15 unanswered runs in the fifth and sixth innings to put the game away. Kay outlasted FHWA only 14-8 but benefited from 15 walks and five errors.

Kay scored four in the first on six walks and two sacrifice flies, and two more in the second on singles from pitcher Fritz Cameron, Robby Robinson, Steve Diemler and Reagan Miller. Kay's seventh run came in the fourth on Cameron's single and two walks.

The Falcons scored in the second on Bassam Bibi's double to the leftfield fence and an error. Two more came in the fourth on leadoff singles by Paul Scogna and Curt Jorgensen. Barb Elayan's walk, a sacrifice fly and Bob Mitchell's two-out single. The Falcons' other three scored in the fourth when, with one on and two out, Scogna and Jorgensen singled, Elayan walked, Bibi was safe on an error, and Dave Wetzel walked.

Kay broke the game open with eight in the fifth on leadoff singles from John Cox, Chuck Wills and Tom Donnelly, one-out errors to pitcher Herb Broy and Cameron, three walks, another error and Cox's second single. They scored seven more in the sixth on three walks, singles by Robinson, Kevin Stevenson, Cox and Donnelly, a double by Stanley d'Souza, and a single by Broy to end the game.

Kay kept up its blistering scoring pace against the Eagles, as they jumped into a 5-0 first-inning lead, and 10-0 by the third. Pitcher Herb Broy was brilliant in holding the powerful Eagles' lineup to no runs and three harmless singles (by Alan Burris, Gerre Andre and Jeff Jugar) in the first four innings. Eagles center fielder Al Rodier's remarkable eighth-inning game-winning streak came to an end. Kay's fifth in the first came on one-out singles from Robinson and Diemler, an error to Bob Nicholson, a single by Stevenson, and with two out an RBI single by Donnelly, a walk to Cox, an error to d'Souza, and Broy's RBI single.

### Triple

In the second Nicholson doubled and Stevenson singled but Kay did not score. Kay's five in the third featured a leadoff triple by Donnelly to the centerfield fence, d'Souza's one-out RBI single, Broy's single to right, a walk to Robinson, and Diemler's bases-loaded double to right center for three RBIs.

The Eagles broke through for four in the fifth, as Alderman walked leading off, Dave Baer doubled, Jim Sheldad singled one run home, and Rodier doubled to the leftfield fence for two more. Dan Hudson singled home the fourth run. Kay made it 11-4 in the fifth on d'Souza's single and Robinson's RBI double to right.

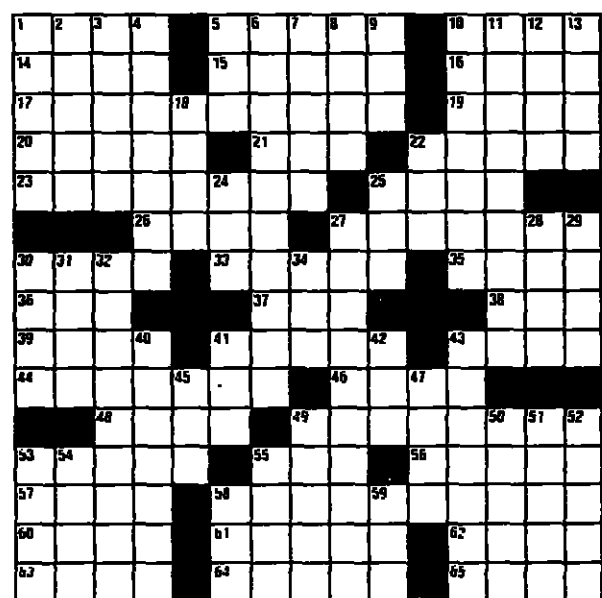
The Eagles looked as though they might come back in the sixth as Burris powered a leadoff triple to left center, Skip Stombaugh followed with a single, Baer got a one-out walk, and Rodier hit a two-out RBI single, but pitcher Fritz Cameron then closed the door the rest of the way. Kay put the game out of reach in the top of the seventh. With one on and two out, Robinson hit a booming triple to the base of the right centerfield fence, Diemler followed with a triple to right field, and Nicholson and Stevenson singled sharply to left and center. The Eagles initially had a scrap on their hands from All-Japan, as well, as they led only 10-8 after four innings, but scored eight in the fifth and eleven more in the sixth, to sink the Bazzookas for Rodier's ninth victory of the season. For the Eagles, Burris had a double and three walks, Jugar four walks and a single, Baer two singles and a triple, Alderman two singles and a triple, Rodier a single and double, Hal Leighton three singles, Sheldad a double and two singles, Dan Hudson two singles, Gerre Andre three singles, and Jim Smith two singles.

The Bazzookas got four in the first on four walks and singles by Toda and Saitoh. In the second, singles by Kato, Hiyaama and Saitoh scored another. Two more came home in the third when with one out Suzuki singled, Yoshiura doubled and Okuyama was safe on an error. The Bazzookas got another in the fourth as Oka, Noguchi and S. Yamada all singled. Their last-gasp rally in the sixth fell two runs short. With one out, Toda singled and Kizano walked. With two out, Oka singled one run home and Noguchi's hit to leftcenter rolled to the fence for a three-run home run.

### Fall 1989 KISL final standings

Team	W	L	RF	RA
Eagles	9	1	148	76
Ku	7	2	128	46
Kay	6	4	168	75
UAS	5	4	78	92
Falcons	1	9	69	174
All-Japan	1	9	72	192

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Poet Teasdale
- 5 Range animal
- 10 Type of coat or shirt
- 14 The third man in Madrid
- 16 Novello of British musicals
- 17 Chief comics
- 19 Grant
- 20 To — human
- 21 Fleet initials
- 22 Green — old TV show
- 23 Historic period
- 25 Aces
- 26 Hawaiian island
- 27 Doffiness
- 30 Widebeasts
- 31 Atlanta's Omni
- 35 Bugaboo
- 36 Guilty or
- 37 Tale treasures
- 38 Norse goddess
- 39 Lends a hand
- 41 Serious-minded
- 43 Choreographer's concern
- 44 Respire
- 46 Do ushers
- 48 To laugh in
- 49 Oaters
- 53 Light brown
- 55 Truncate
- 56 Derived from oil
- 57 — a song go out of my heart
- 58 The final result
- 60 — M for Murder
- 61 Repeatedly
- 62 Presently
- 63 Macabre
- 64 The time being
- 65 Musical symbol

### DOWN

- 1 Cloys
- 2 Scrub a mission
- 3 Facsimile briefly
- 4 Animals lacking pigmentation
- 5 Kingsley or lur
- 6 Start
- 7 Meaning
- 8 Algerian port
- 9 Negative replies
- 10 Flute's kin
- 11 Neglect
- 12 Mine vein
- 13 Mine linds
- 18 On the briny
- 22 Exodus hero
- 24 Cry of discovery
- 25 Links letters
- 27 Germicide
- 28 Leaves home?
- 29 Canine comment
- 30 Snatch
- 31 Roulette bet
- 32 Lingerie
- 34 Baseball stat.
- 40 Devout
- 41 — walks in beauty....
- 42 — Planes
- 43 Astral
- 45 Have a go at
- 47 Mighty mite
- 49 "Ring" character
- 50 Roi's spouse
- 51 Barcelona baby boys
- 52 Hound's forte
- 53 Neap or ebb
- 54 "I cannot tell"
- 55 Trademark
- 58 Interdict
- 59 Wallet bill



## GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ A5 ♥ Q10532 ♦ 6 ♣ QJ652  
In first seat, do you open the bidding?

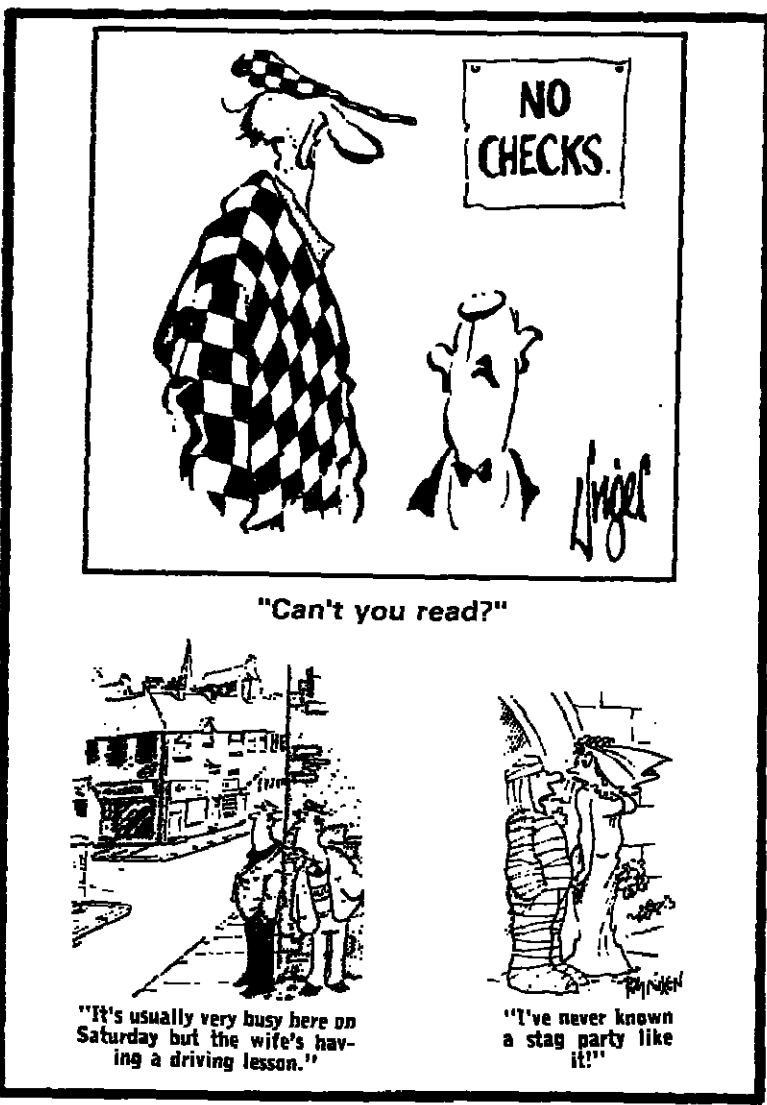
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ A5 ♥ Q10532 ♦ 6 ♣ QJ652  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
Pass 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠  
? What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ AKJ6532 ♥ 62 ♦ K83 ♣ 4  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
? What is your opening bid?

2 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ K42 ♥ Q98542 ♦ 63 ♣ 85  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ A53 ♥ KJ952 ♦ 63 ♣ 752  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ AKJ9862 ♥ Void ♦ 5 ♣ AQ1053  
What is your opening bid?



"Can't you read?"



"It's usually very busy here on Saturday but the wife's having a driving lesson."



"I've never known a stag party like this!"

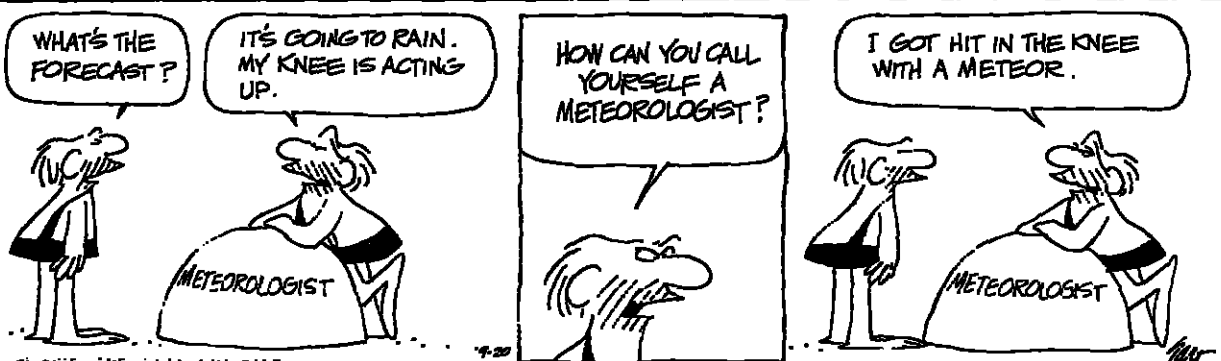
## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



## B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to do things differently; better. Avoid trying to do too many things at once. Show a little more resilience when dealing with tough customer. Be observant.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will feel rather discontented and should try to snap out of the mood. Something that has mystified you will now become much clearer. Avoid making too many assumptions. Be constructive.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

Something that is not familiar will seem strange, but soon become much more to your liking. You should persevere if learning is not as easy as it used to be, unless you think you are too old to learn. Be reliable.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Something that has been causing you a problem will all of a sudden become much easier. You should not, however, expect success to fall into your lap. Make sure you do not leave any bills unpaid. Be generous.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will meet someone very much to your liking. Do not allow some small impediment to put you off your stride. Do not be afraid of change nor make changes just for the sake of change. Be more helpful.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You should have just a little more faith in yourself. You must avoid spending too much time dealing with secondary matters. Make sure you do not think you are too clever. Be less pretentious.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

Something that has been causing you a problem will all of a sudden become much easier. You should not, however, expect success to fall into your lap. Make sure you do not leave any bills unpaid. Be generous.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

Do not expect to have all things your own way. Try to avoid harboring a grievance. Make you do not spend more than you know you can afford to. Be moderate.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Something you have been learning will become second nature, but beware, there is still a lot to learn. You will have to deal with a nervous person and should keep calm whilst doing so. Your lucky numbers are 32 and 43. Look after your health.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Avoid doing anything that is contrary to your principles. Try to avoid getting into a muddle. Make sure you get all the rest you need and sufficient exercise too. Be a little more cautious.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Your ingenuity will help you to solve an unusual problem. If you wait any longer it may well be too late. Everything will take just a little longer so beware of wasting time. And do not spend too long chatting. Be a little more realistic.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Something that has been causing you a problem will all of a sudden become a lot easier to deal with. You will find a sweet very much to your liking, but you must not eat it to excess. Do something to please your partner. Be less selfish.



SPORTS

# Portland outplay Indiana

PORTLAND, Oregon, Dec 18, (AP): Clyde Drexler scored 26 points and Jerome Kersey 20 to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 121-113 victory over Indiana last night despite 33 points by the Pacers' Chuck Person.

Portland led 62-50 at halftime but Person, who scored 18 points in the third period and 12 in the fourth, sparked a rally that got Indiana as close as 74-70. The Blazers then went on a 19-7 run for a 95-77 lead.

**Jazz 122, Timberwolves 112**  
Utah made 51 of 58 free throws, including 15 of 16 by John Stockton and 20 of 24 by Karl Malone. Stockton's six points sparked a 12-0 run late in the fourth quarter. Minnesota was 40 of 49 from the foul line.

Stockton made his 12th straight free throw with 4:20 to go, giving Utah a 104-99 lead. Malone, who scored 34 points, made a driving shot with 58 seconds left to make it 115-109. Minnesota's Tony Campbell score 34 points.

**Rockets 109, Magic 94**  
Houston's Akem Oluajuwon had his second triple-double of the season with 32 points, a career-high 25 rebounds and 10 blocked shots. Oluajuwon surpassed 20 rebounds for the fourth time this season. He had 25 three previous times in his career.

Houston used a 17-5 spurt, including six points, four rebounds and two blocks by Oluajuwon, to take a 97-85 lead with 3:49 left to play. Orlando's Reggie Theus scored 29 points and made nine straight shots at one stretch.

**Results**

Utah Jazz	122	Minnesota	112
Portland	121	Indiana	113
Stouetion	109	Orlando	94
Phoenix	125	Sacramento	113

**Standings**

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB

New York	14	7	.667	-
Boston	12	10	.545	2-1/2
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	3
Washington	11	11	.500	3-1/2
Miami	7	17	.292	8-1/2
New Jersey	6	15	.286	8

Central Division				
Chicago	14	7	.667	-
Indiana	13	7	.650	1/2
Atlanta	13	8	.619	-
Detroit	13	10	.565	-
Cleveland	10	11	.476	-
Milwaukee	10	12	.455	4-1/2
Orlando	8	15	.348	-

Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Utah	15	6	.714	-
San Antonio	14	6	.700	-1/2
Denver	14	9	.609	-
Dallas	10	11	.476	5
Houston	11	12	.478	5
Minnesota	5	17	.227	10-1/2
Charlotte	3	18	.143	12

Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	18	5	.783	-1-1/2
Portland Trail	17	7	.706	-
Seattle	11	10	.524	6-1/2
Phoenix	9	10	.473	7
LA Clippers	8	12	.400	8-1/2
Golden State	8	14	.364	9-1/2
Sacramento	6	14	.300	10-1/2

# Browns stay in AFC Central title chase

# Vikings and Oilers lose

NEW YORK, Dec 18, (AP): The two teams that could have clinched division championships, Minnesota and Houston, were losers yesterday — the Vikings by a touchdown in overtime and the Oilers by 54 points.

Cleveland defeated Minnesota 23-17 on reserve quarterback Mike Pagel's 14-yard touchdown pass to linebacker Van Waiters on a fake field goal with 5:30 left in overtime.

The victory — and Houston's 61-7 loss at Cincinnati — kept the Browns in the AFC Central Division title chase. The Oilers still lead the division with a 9-6 record, while Cleveland is 8-6-1. The two teams play in Houston next Saturday for the division championship.

Despite winning, Cincinnati (8-7) was eliminated from title contention but still remains in the running for a wild card. Minnesota still can clinch the NFC Central with a victory Christmas Day at home against the Bengals.

If Minnesota (9-6) loses again, and Green Bay (9-6) wins at Dallas on Sunday, the division title goes to the Packers. If both win and the conference winds up tied, Minnesota wins the title.

On Saturday, the New York Giants defeated Dallas 15-0, clinching at least a wild card but also remaining tied with Philadelphia for the AFC East lead. And Denver beat Phoenix 37-0, clinching the home field throughout the playoffs. The Broncos already had clinched the

## AFC West title

**Browns 23, Vikings 17, OT**  
The fake field goal winner came on third-and-5, with Matt Bahr lining up to attempt an apparent 32-yard field goal. Bahr had hit a 32-yarder with 24 seconds in regulation to force overtime.

**Bengals 61, Oilers 7**  
Boomer Esiason threw four touchdown passes in frigid weather as the Bengals tied the club scoring record. The Oilers turned the ball over five times to help Cincinnati take command 31-0 at the intermission.

**Packers 40, Bears 28**  
Don Majkowski passed for a touchdown and ran for two others, and Keith Woodside had a 68-yard touchdown run as the Packers kept their flickering playoff hopes alive.

**Cowboys 42, Dolphins 13**  
Jack Trudeau passed for a career-high four touchdowns, and Eric Dickerson had a career-high nine pass receptions and ran for 107 yards and two touchdowns for Indianapolis. Both the Colts and Dolphins are 8-7.

**Steelers 28, Patriots 10**  
Tim Worley ran for 104 yards and a touchdown, Louis Lipps scored on a 58-yard reverse and Pittsburgh's defense dominated for the second straight week.

Merrill Hoge also ran for two short-range touchdowns as the Steelers (8-7) won for the fourth time in five games to maintain an outside shot at their first playoff berth in five years.



Esiason: threw four touchdown passes

**Chargers 20, Chiefs 13**  
Billy Joe Tolliver threw two touchdown passes and Marion Butts rushed for 176 yards on a club-record 39 carries as San Diego damaged Kansas City's playoff hopes.

**Lions 33, Buccaneers 7**  
Although it was too late to make them a playoff contender, the Lions (6-9) won their fourth straight game for their longest winning streak since the start of the 1980 season. Rookie Barry Sanders rushed for 104 yards and a touchdown, breaking the Lions' rookie record with 1,312 yards this season.

**Rams 38, Jets 14**  
Jim Everett threw for 273 yards and two scores yesterday as the Los Angeles Rams remained in the hunt for a wild-card berth. Los Angeles dominated the Jets

(4-11) in virtually every department, opening up a 28-7 lead by halftime.

**49ers 21, Bills 10**  
Roger Craig rushed for 105 yards and the go-ahead touchdown yesterday as the San Francisco 49ers gave turnover-prone Buffalo its fourth loss in five games and fourth straight on the road.

**Redskins 31, Falcons 30**  
Mark Rypien shook off an earlier neck sprain to spark three touchdown drives in a span of 3:38 in the third quarter and led the Washington Redskins to victory. But the Redskins' slim playoff hopes ended earlier in the afternoon when the Los Angeles Rams beat the New York Jets.

**Results**

Green Bay	40	Chicago	28
Cincinnati	61	Houston	7

Cleveland	23	Minnesota	17
Detroit	33	Tampa Bay	7
Indianapolis	42	Miami	13
San Diego	20	Kansas City	13
Pittsburgh	28	N England	10
Washington	31	Atlanta	30
LA Rams	38	New York	14
S Francisco	21	Buffalo	10
Seattle	23	LA Raiders	17

**Standings of National Football League teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, tied, points for, against):**

American Conference					
Eastern Division					
	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	7	0	372	317
Miami	8	7	0	307	352
Indianapolis	8	7	0	292	260
New England	5	10	0	277	367
N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	253	374
Central Division					

Buffalo	8	7	0	372	317
Miami	8	7	0	307	352
Indianapolis	8	7	0	292	260
New England	5	10	0	277	367
NY Jets	4	11	0	253	374

L A Raiders	8	7	0	298	263
Kansas City	7	7	1	291	262
Seattle	7	8	0	241	298
San Diego	5	10	0	247	274
National Conference					
Eastern Division					

**Western Division**

X-Denver	11	4	0	346	207
LA Raiders	8	7	0	298	263
Kansas City	7	7	1	291	262
Seattle	7	8	0	241	298
San Diego	5	10	0	247	274

Minnesota	9	6	0	333	254
Green Bay	9	6	0	342	346
Detroit	6	9	0	281	340
Chicago	6	9	0	358	351
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	298	388
Western Division					
X-San Francisco	13	2	0	416	253
L A Rams	10	5	0	402	324
New Orleans	7	7	0	315	275

Central Division					
Minnesota	9	6	0	322	254
Green Bay	6	9	0	342	246
Detroit	6	9	0	281	340
Chicago	6	9	0	338	351
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	298	388

Western Division					
X-San Francisco	13	2	0	416	253
LA Rams	10	5	0	402	324
New Orleans	7	7	0	315	275
Atlanta	3	12	0	255	406

X-clinched division title  
Y-clinched wild card berth

# White Sox fight to beat Red Sox

THE two senior league teams ended their Kuwait Little League season with 3 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie. Thursday's game went back and forth the whole time. The Red Sox, missing a few key people still played some beautiful ball. Pitcher Erik Fox did a fine job only walking 3 batters and striking out six. No one was really hitting on the Red Sox team and this cost them the game. The runs scored were due to walks and stolen bases.

Now the White Sox were hitting. Robbie Mason had a triple and 2 singles. Thari Al Ibrahim had a double and Shemlan Khajah had a double. Thari Al Ibrahim was pitching beautiful. His fast ball intimidated the Red Sox. At the end of four great innings the final score was Red Sox 7 White Sox 9.

The Rangers and the Pirates had a very close game. Josh Baur and Rusty Stombaugh both pitched for the Rangers. Big hitters were Khaled Al Shaya with a triple. Rusty Stombaugh with 2 doubles earning 2 RBIs. Nate Mooneyham, the first baseman was involved in 2 nice plays at first.

The Pirates pitcher Waqar Hasib struck out five batters. Ahmed Ahmed, the short stop did a great job. Ahmed caught a fly ball and had a beautiful stop to help make an out at second. The Pirates just ran out of time losing to the Rangers 8-7.

The Astros had a good day at the Mets expense. Pitcher Gibran Hamdan pitched a no hitter. Gibran struck out 15 batters only walking 5. Gibran also was hitting. He got a double and a single. Bibi Al Ebrahim had a triple and earned 3 RBIs. Ridha Bebbani also and a triple for the team.

The Mets were in there fighting the whole time. Defensively they made some beautiful fielding plays.

The first baseman Yaseen Aziz made some beautiful plays at first. Second baseman Bassel Al Shamali caught a fly ball and was involved in three other defensive plays. Pitcher Kareem Abu Zeid also caught a fly and with first baseman Yaseen made a nice play at first for the out. Once the Mets start hitting they will be a tough team to beat. Watch for them in the second half. Final score Astros 8 Mets 0.

The Giants ended the season on a winning note. The Orioles looked like they were going to be the first team to beat the Giants. Pitcher Cory Fox was doing a great job. Cory had a double and a single. Justin Bollig had a double bringing in 2 runners. The Orioles were ahead til the fourth inning.

The Giants started hitting everything Cory threw. Jun Yoshimura had a double and 2 singles. Masato Watanabe had a triple and 2 singles. Yoichi Inoue had a triple. Koichi Hozumi had a triple and a double and Shigeru Mano had a triple and a double.

At the end of 5 action packed innings the Giants 14 the Orioles 6. A special good-bye and good luck to those Giants leaving Kuwait. Kuwait Little League will miss you!

**Results**

	T-ball	
--	--------	--

Athletics	14	Braves	28
Tigers	27	Cubs	16
Twins	26	Royals	13
Mariners	14	Blue Jays	9
Mets	0	Astros	8
Major	0		
Pirates	7	Rangers	9
Orioles	6	Giants	14
Cardinals	16	Dodgers	4
Senat	7	White Sox	9

**Home Run Hitters**

Saad Al Dehmed	1
Ahmed Al Boshai	(2)
Twins	

# Gardner ready for action

THE Rothmans Honda Grand Prix team will contest both the 500cc and 250cc World Championships in 1990. Australian Wayne Gardner and Michael Doohan ride the NSR Rothmans Honda machines in the 500cc class, while popular Frenchman, Dominique Sarron, returns to the team and the very competitive 250cc class.

Last season Eddie Lawson won the 500cc Championship for the team following in the World Championship success of Freddie Spencer. Wayne Gardner and Toni Mang in the Rothmans Honda colours. Last season, the 1987 World 500cc champion, Wayne Gardner, broke his left leg at the third Grand Prix of the season in America. Although he returned later in the year, his season was wrecked. After a month of recuperation, he can't wait for the new season to start.

"I've been working flat out to get the leg 100% fit," said Gardner, who married fiancée Donna in Australia last week. "I'm sure I will be fit, both mentally and physically, by the time we reach that opening Grand Prix of the season in Japan."

His team-mate in the 500cc class, Michael Doohan, also struggled with injuries in his debut season in the 500cc class. Despite missing some races he still impressed many experts with both his skill and bravery. Great things are expected of Doohan in 1990.

"I learnt a great deal in 1989 which will help me next year," revealed the



Wayne Gardner

24-year-old Australian. "If I can stay free of injuries I'm sure I will have a good year." Last season Dominique Sarron rode in the 500cc World Championship, riding for the French Elf Honda team. Previously he has been very successful in the 250cc World Championship, finishing third and fourth in consecutive years.

"I'm delighted to be both back in the 250cc class and with the Rothmans Honda team," said the 30-year-old French star. "It should be a very close championship and I'm determined to go out and win it."

# Friesennegers take top honours

PETER and Bernadette Friesenneger took first place in the men's and ladies' kart race at the Ahmadi Kart Track on Friday. Mike Snell and Simon Lloyd came home second and third respectively in the men's championship while Norma Haines and Christine Sheehan took the same positions in the ladies race in the same karts.

The Friesennegers, sponsored by the Mahdi Habib Commercial Est, proved that a natural karting ability runs in the family which no doubt will pass to their 6-year-old son who already owns his own machine.

The day was not an easy victory however as some of the most exciting racing we have seen this season unfolded before the spectators. On the very first bend of the first heat Friesenneger and Snell clashed causing both to retire early. David Haines (Halliburton) took to the lead, hotly pursued by Lloyd until Haines upped the pace to draw clear of Lloyd for a comfortable victory.

On came Friesenneger and Snell for heat two, starting from the second row of the grid with Haines and Lloyd on the next row. Friesenneger led from start to finish with Haines menacingly close until a rear axle bearing disintegrated, in what was to become the first in a series of problems for Haines throughout the day. Lloyd came home third with Bollig (Halliburton) fourth and Snell fifth. Heat three was almost an identical replay of heat two with Snell moving up one place into fourth.

Heat four started without Haines, who pulled out on the rolling lap after another rear axle problem. Lloyd took up the lead at the first corner and held his position to the flag without being challenged beyond the second lap when Friesenneger, holding second place, retired with engine problems. Snell took up the second place challenge but couldn't reach the comfortably placed Lloyd. Bollig, who performed consistently throughout the day carried a deserved third place with Wakeley and Gardiner fourth and fifth.

The men's KNDK final saw Haines on pole position. Lloyd, who had stayed clear of the day's problems, on anti-pole and the menacing Friesenneger on third spot with Snell alongside. Haines took an early lead with Lloyd and Friesenneger in pursuit. After five laps Friesenneger passed Lloyd on the straight and set off after Haines, closing the gap in two or three laps. Haines, Friesenneger and Lloyd were now well clear of the rest of the field who were fighting for the remaining placings.

Wakeley and Gardiner had a separate battle for fifth and sixth and both spun at the hairpin. Charging down the straight came Haines and Friesenneger to find the hairpin obstructed by Gardiner's kart. Haines took to the desert whilst Friesenneger kept to the inside line. Haines taking a long excursion came back onto the track only to have second place stolen by Lloyd. Friesenneger was now pulling away as Haines tried again and again and again to overtake Lloyd who was driving defensively. With just over a lap to go Lloyd lost control and spun in front of Haines who could not avoid clipping Lloyd's rear end losing his chain. Lloyd managed to restart but not before Snell slipped through to take second place relegating Lloyd to third with Bollig fourth, Gardiner fifth and Wakeley, Haines, Stevenson, Wakeley, and Dick taking the remaining placings.

After an exciting men's final seven ladies took to the track for the ladies race. Bernadette Friesenneger pulled to the front with Sandra Gardiner, in her dad's kart, second and Norma Haines third. Sandra Gardiner eventually lost control of the brake pedal with two or three spins during the race. Bernadette Friesenneger just kept the pace up and never lost control of her kart. Christine Sheehan, who together with Norma Habib tried karting for the first time, gradually increased the pace of their driving as their confidence grew. It was an exciting race and full credit should be given to all seven ladies who participated in the race keeping the men busy restarting spun karts for an entertaining eight laps.

The day finished with the presentation of cups by Imad Mahdi Habib to the top three men and lady drivers.

The next meeting is the turkey trot (to be sponsored by Pirclif Construction Company) which shall be a points handicap race on the December 22, 1989.



Peter Friesenneger after his victory.

**555**  
Stands out for taste



3. Dona Materny & Clara Bastiere.

The match was the first in a

**both teams to play in this kind of weather and they should not have played for the sake of play only."**

Aslam took two wickets for Lions while Salim got one

Both Mario and Lynne have won recognition in high game, high series, and memberships in champion teams in the past, but 1989 annual championships titles undoubtedly puts the elusive feather in their hats, at last!

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**ANOTHER PYRAMID FOR KUWAIT**

M.I.S. is pleased to announce that G.T.C Paints has ordered a Pyramid SuperMini Computer. The system will be running an integrated manufacturing and production control system specifically developed by M.I.S. for G.T.C. This is the third Pyramid to be installed by M.I.S.

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